

**It's twins!**

Irwin staff routinely handles high-risk births.

Page 17

Fort Riley Post

**Infantry takes title**

— Page 11

Friday, April 30, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Around The Army

Europe:

Stars and Stripes reported April 29 that 1st Armored Division families with Soldiers extended in Iraq for four months will be allowed to move back to the United States without the service-member.

Army officials said the new policy is specifically designed to ease the burden on families of the Germany-based 1st Armored Division, which makes up the bulk of the 14,250 active-duty soldiers whose Iraq tours were officially extended by Pentagon officials on April 19.

For more about this story and other military news in Europe and the Pacific, visit www.estripes.com on the Internet.

Fort Knox:

Inside the Turret reported April 29 that the post will no longer provide full military burial honors to retirees.

The normal nine-man detail includes seven Soldiers to serve as Honor Squad rifle-firers and pallbearers, and two more to perform the ceremonial folding and presentation of the interment flag and the playing of "Taps."

The new detail will be the regular service representative detail used for non-retired Army veterans. It involves a two-Soldier team - officer or enlisted, depending on the rank of the deceased - that will handle the interment flag and play "Taps" on a cassette-equipped bugle.

For more about this story and other news at Fort Knox, visit www.thenewsenquirer.com on the Internet.

Fort Bliss:

The Monitor reported April 22 that a group of 12 Soldiers and family members went to Hueco Tanks State Park the previous Saturday for a day of rock climbing.

"For 50 years or so it's been attractive for rock climbing," said instructor Robert Rice, referring to Hueco Tanks. The area, however, is "most famous for its bouldering," he said.

After watching their expert ascend the first rock face to install the necessary climbing and safety gear, the members of the group tied the necessary safety knots, checked and rechecked their harnesses and gear, and went over the commands and communications for their climb, then headed for the top.

For more about this story and other Fort Bliss news, visit www.lavenpublishing.com/monitor/ on the Internet.

Severe weather exercise set

Fort Riley emergency personnel will conduct a Tornado Exercise May 6 to practice the post's severe weather procedures.

During the mock scenario, a tornado alert will sound and emergency personnel will receive notification that a tornado has touched down on Fort Riley, resulting in several casualties.

Numerous fire trucks, police cars and ambulances will be in the Ellis Heights housing area. These vehicles are only part of the exercise.

Fort Riley boots up eArmyU

Special to the Post

Fort Riley will soon boot up eArmyU, an online streamlined program to help Soldiers get the education they want.

In July 2000, the Army announced a new education recruiting initiative called Army University Access Online now referred to as eArmyU.

The online program offers Soldiers a streamlined portal approach to a wide variety of postsecondary degrees and technical certificates.

The courses allow Soldiers to study on their own schedule. Highly motivated soldiers can complete degree and certification requirements regardless of work schedules, family responsibilities

and deployments.

Enlisted Soldiers can complete degree requirements anytime and anywhere they can take their laptop.

Fort Riley and Fort Stewart, Ga., will soon enroll Soldiers in the eArmyU program.

With the addition of Fort Riley and Fort Stewart to the program, 16 installations Army wide will

have implemented eArmyU for students.

Fort Riley already assists Soldiers who enrolled in eArmyU at other installations.

"Soldiers who are currently enrolled in eArmyU are pleased with the program. They have found that being able to work on their own time schedule is very convenient," said Adelina

Morales, eArmyU point of contact at Fort Riley.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Gentry enrolled in the program while stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. He transferred to Fort Riley and has completed 36 semester hours while enrolled in the eArmyU. He has nine classes to take to complete his degree.

See eArmyU, Page 2

Heroes' salute



Post/Skidmore

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, salutes the "heroes" of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, who returned from Iraq April 24.



Post/Skidmore
Rhonda Lysinger yells out of excitement as she spots her husband, Maj. Ron Lysinger.

Last ceremony honors brigade

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info. Officer

"And now, entering the hangar are the heroes of the 3rd Brigade," boomed 2nd Lt. Christopher Dodos of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, signaling the Soldiers waiting outside to enter hangar 817 at Marshall Army Airfield April 24.

Until Dodos' announcement, the crowd was quietly waiting for the ceremony to start, welcoming the 3rd Brigade Soldiers home from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

That one sentence, per-

formed in the tradition of Ed McMahon announcing Johnny Carson to the stage with his now famous "Heeere's Johnny," brought the crowd to their feet.

It turned them into a flag waving, sign shaking, clapping, cheering, teary-eyed mass of hysteria with everyone trying to pick out a familiar face in the sea of desert camouflage forming in front of them.

"This was the last time I have to make that statement," said Dodos, now that the last redeployment ceremony for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team is

over.

"Last of the Bulldog Brigade to come home," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, addressed the Soldiers standing at ease.

"Great warriors, heroes, I can only begin to tell you how very proud we are of you, each of you," he said.

"On behalf of the great United States of America, on behalf of the grateful nation, on behalf of the Secretary of the Army, it

See Return, Page 2

Horse Soldiers train for ride

Re-enactment will take unit 125 miles

By Cassidy Hill
Staff Writer

In preparation for a historic cavalry re-enactment ride from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley, the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard participated in a two-day endurance ride April 21-22.

The ride

was the final

training

exercise

before the re-

enactment,

which will

be May 5-12.

Eleven Sol-

diers in the

unit rode

about 26

miles from

Curtis Creek

Park west of

Milford

Lake to Clay

Center on April 21.

They camped overnight in the 4-H

Arena in Clay Center then rode 14

more miles from Clay Center to

Wakarusa the next morning.

Capt. Joel Graham, the color

guard's commander, said the two-

day ride gave the Soldiers an idea

of what it would feel like to ride

on back-to-back days.

"The ride really allowed us to

see what we really needed for our

(re-enactment) ride," Graham

said. "It was a lesson learned, as

we experienced different types of

Inside

The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard helped launch a new Army recruitment effort.

See Page 15

See Ride, Page 2

75th trainers under fire with unique Iraqi mission

Advisory teams work with new armed force

By Wayne Marotto
Army News Service

TALLAFAR, Iraq — Amidst mortar attacks, firefights at the front gate, drive-by shootings, and the ever-present danger of improvised explosive devices, a team of the 75th Division (Training Support) is training hundreds of soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

It's the first of four advisory support teams from the division that will be part of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team.

The team's objective is to advise, train and organize the Iraqi Armed Forces as soon as

possible so that Iraqis can defend their own country. This responsibility has been tasked to the 75th Division, an active and reserve-component training support division headquartered in Houston, Texas.

The Army mobilized the 75th Division in January 2003. In wartime, the division's Soldiers normally serve as observer controllers to train and mobilize Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the United States.

This time the Army tasked the division to deploy hundreds of its Soldiers as a unit into a combat theater to train foreign soldiers.

The majority of the deployed Soldiers volunteered to go to Iraq. The first team of Reserve Soldiers — led by Maj. Robert Chandler, CMAAT battalion advisory support team chief, and Master Sgt. Richard Howard, noncommissioned officer in charge — is in Tallafar, Iraq, doing a mission normally done by Special Forces Soldiers.

Because the Special Forces Soldiers are needed for other missions in Iraq and to hunt down Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, the mission went to the reserve training support divisions.

The reservists are all infantry

See Training, Page 2



Reserve Soldiers of the 75th Brigade (Training Support) patrol with Iraqi security forces they are training.

75th Brigade





Post news in brief

Commander to address post civilians

Col. John Simpson, Fort Riley garrison commander, will meet with the post's civilian workforce twice on May 18, in Barlow Theater, building 7866, on Custer Hill. His addresses are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and civilian employees may attend either session.

Bus transportation usually provided for the addresses has been discontinued. Ample parking is available but employees are asked to car-pool if possible.

Guest speaker to talk on EEO responsibilities

Judge Lloyd J. Vasquez Jr., administrative judge for the St. Louis Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, will be a guest lecturer for two training sessions May 5, in building 319.

His first presentation, "Supervisors' Responsibility to EEO," will highlight litigation of numerous complex employment discrimination cases, some of the management mistakes he presided over before joining the commission and sound advice on workplace issues that may result in allegations of employment discrimination. The session will run from 8 to 9:45 a.m.

The second training session, "Reasonable Accommodation and the Rehabilitation Act," will offer information on Army and EEOC regulatory requirements, identify what constitutes a handicapping condition under Title VII law, how to accommodate conditions and potential liabilities if procedures aren't followed properly. The session will run from 10 to 11:45 a.m.

Nominations are required for attendance to either or both of these sessions. Sessions will be limited to 40 participants each. To register, call 239-2595.

DES schedules team training

The Directorate of Environment and Safety has scheduled the following classes for personnel needing the training: Environmental Team Training, May 3-4.

Environmental Team Training Refresher, May 5.

HAZCOM Train the Trainer, May 6.

All classes are conducted in room 6 of building 407 starting at 9 a.m.

Call 239-0446 or 239-2334 to enroll or check with the battalion schools noncommissioned officer for more information.

Retirement orientation set

The semi-annual pre-retirement orientation will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 7, with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. in Barlow Theater.

This orientation is for individuals who have submitted their request for retirement; however, any soldier contemplating retirement in the near future is welcome to attend. The purpose of this orientation is to present information concerning rights, benefits and responsibilities in conjunction with retirement.

Soldiers who are eligible for early retirement (medical reasons only) should also attend.

For further information, call the Retirement Services Office at 239-3320 or 239-3667.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Training

continued from page 1

or combat-arms Soldiers. Several of them experienced combat in Operation Desert Storm. They will spend the next year training the Iraqi soldiers on basic infantry tactics from squad to battalion level.

Tallafar is located in the northern part of Iraq near the Syrian border. The closest major city, Mosul, is about 70 miles to the south.

Enemy mortar rounds routinely hit the U.S. Army camp at Mosul, and the U.S. patrols there receive enemy fire on a daily basis.

The hostility of Mosul residents was apparent by the intimidating stares the Iraqi men gave the 75th Division Soldiers as they sped in and out of traffic hoping to avert an IED or ambush.

The Soldiers had their trigger fingers at the ready on their M-16A2 rifles pointing out of the windows of their sport utility vehicles. The Soldiers' anxiety was apparent because a previous IED explosion narrowly missed their convoy.

When the Soldiers first arrived at Fort Tallafar, they found it in severe disrepair. They quickly dubbed the fort "The Alamo,"

showing their Texas pride. The fort had been used as a prisoner-of-war compound for Iranian and Kuwaiti soldiers.

Its most recent employment was as a base for the Iraqi army, but it was not funded adequately and fell into disrepair. With undaunted American ingenuity, the U.S. Soldiers quickly began to repair the plumbing, infrastructure, and physical security structures.

The U.S. troops share the fort with more than 600 Iraqi soldiers. Many of the Iraqi soldiers were in the old Iraqi army. Others are new to the military.

Living like Iraqis

The U.S. Soldiers live, train, and eat with the Iraqi Soldiers. Much to the chagrin of the U.S. Soldiers, they are subsisting on an Iraqi diet, because the Iraqi battalion commander ordered that no American food would be served at the fort.

Chandler said breakfast was a mashed-up hard-boiled egg, a white soup-like substance, bread, and cream. For lunch and dinner, the Soldiers were given the choice

of chicken with rice or rice with chicken.

The Soldiers did take a liking to the hot sweet tea the Iraqis served with every meal.

Staff Sgt. James Mitchell said he volunteered to be part of the CMATT mission because it was a good opportunity for him to help rebuild the Iraqi army, and once the army was rebuilt, the Iraqis could defend themselves. Then they could work on rebuilding their economy.

Mitchell, who serves with the 3rd Battalion, 381st Regiment, 2nd Brigade, said in the first month of training they have put the Iraqi soldiers through military operations in urban terrain training, close quarter combat training, patrolling techniques and formations, tactical checkpoints and individual movement techniques.

All of the training was put to use when the Iraqi soldiers and 75th Division Soldiers went on combat patrols with the 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Going on combat patrols with the Iraqi army is a new part of the mission for the U.S. Soldiers. This is not a mission they have when

they train Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the United States.

The 75th Soldiers have accompanied the Iraqi soldiers on day and night patrols in the local village and terrain around the fort.

Capt. Barry Starr of the 3rd Bn., 289th Regt., 2nd Bde., said he volunteered for the mission because "I believe in my country and I believe in the mission."

Starr's role in the CMATT is to serve as the team's chief of personnel and its logistics officer. He coaches, teaches and mentors his counterparts on how to keep track of personnel and equipment.

First goal: Equipment

One of his first goals was to have the Iraqis sign for equipment, especially the weapons, and to have accountability formations. These are things the U.S. Army has instilled in its Soldiers but was a new concept for the Iraqi army.

Starr emphasized that he does not dictate any type of training to the Iraqis, but makes suggestions to them. He explained that he was not there to run the Iraqi army but

to assist them in running the army. He said that he wanted the Iraqi officers and noncommissioned officers to learn on their own to the extent possible.

The Iraqi officers were eager to ask Starr questions and get his advice. Starr also trained the Iraqi soldiers on the weapons qualification ranges.

Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Stone of the 3rd Bn., 381st Regt., 2nd Bde., is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, having served with the 643rd Air Defense Arillery (Patriot).

He said he volunteered to return to a combat zone "to help out the Iraqi nation, the troops and to get our Soldiers home faster to their loved ones."

"I believe this is the exact mission we should be doing," Chandler said.

"We are a training support division. We should not take American Soldiers and pull them out of a (combat) unit and say, 'OK, we want you to go train these guys here.' We have been training Soldiers the past two years on active duty. It's what our mission is - to train Soldiers," Chandler said.

Return

continued from page 1

is good to get you home," Hardy said.

Hardy said he was proud of the returning Soldiers and that he now recognizes them as veterans.

"You join that long lineage of veterans who come before you," Hardy said, "who have carried the nation's banner, the 'Stars and Stripes,' into a foreign land, fighting for an idea, fighting for peace and for freedom and for a way of life," he said.

Hardy then brought the Soldiers to attention, rendered a salute and released them.

"Iron Soldiers, I salute you. Veterans, on behalf of a grateful nation, and it's with a lot of pride that I can say to you, well done, God bless you, good luck to you. Families, let's rejoice our Soldiers. Fall out!"

Soldiers lend helping hands

Capt. Jodelle Schroeder (second from right) and an unidentified specialist (right) were among a contingent of medical professionals from Company C, 101st Forward Support Battalion, who provided health assessments to 200 students at the Al Huda Primary School for Girls in Habbaniyah, Iraq. The battalion sponsors the school as a part of the Adopt a School Program, one of many initiatives to restore peace in Iraq.

101st FSB/Kollin Taylor



eArmyU

continued from page 1

Gentry said, "eArmyU is an excellent program. It afforded me the opportunity to complete a degree when traditional methods were not available."

EArmyU benefits

EArmyU provides soldiers 100 percent tuition assistance, books, fees for online courses, a technology package (laptop computer, printer, e-mail account and Internet access, maintenance and warranty of equipment and round-the-clock help desk assistance).

After a student completes 12 semester hours of study, the technology package becomes belongs to the soldier.

Added to the existing education programs and services available, this online program helps to ensure all Soldiers have the opportunity to fulfill their personal and professional educational goals while simultaneously building the technology, critical thinking, and decision-making skills required to fully transform the Army.

Soldier eligibility

To participate in this program with the laptop option, Soldiers must be regular active duty or active guard of reserve enlisted soldiers with at least three years remaining on their enlistment. Soldiers may extend or re-enlist to meet this requirement.

Soldiers who enroll in the program with the no laptop option receive all the same benefits and services but need have only one year remaining on active duty to enroll and are only required to enroll in three semester hours within 90 days.

Briefings for interested Soldiers will begin May 6 at Barlow Theatre and will be conducted at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. May 6, 12, 13, 17 and 20.

At the briefings, Army education counselors will review all the program requirements and answer questions about the program. Soldiers must attend a briefing before beginning the eArmyU enrollment process.

Ride

continued from page 1

weather on our actual ride."

Since August, the unit has participated in nine endurance rides to prepare the Soldiers and horses.

"I loved the ride. It was an excellent training exercise to get ourselves ready for the actual event. Everyone is getting real excited for the real one," he said.

Graham said the endurance ride was to prepare his Soldiers and horses for the 125-mile historic trail ride. He said people today are not used to riding horses for an extended period of time, and horses aren't being used like they were in the 1850s.

On May 5, the unit will receive "special orders" at Fort Leavenworth to carry to Fort Riley a proclamation observing Fort Riley and Kansas' 150 years of service. The unit will begin the ride the next day.

About a dozen Soldiers will travel nearly 25 miles a day until they deliver the proclamation to Fort Riley. The ride resembles what it would have been like to

deliver such paperwork by a cavalry unit 150 years ago.

The historic trail ride is in honor of Fort Riley's and Kansas' Sesquicentennial. The Soldiers will travel down part of the Santa Fe Trail, the Military Trail and Oregon Trail, along U.S. Highway 24.

The ride also recognizes the contributions of the U.S. Cavalry and Fort Riley to Kansas.

The mounted unit will stop in various cities and towns along the way to rest and camp each night. The Soldiers will set up an encampment and will visit with community members about the historic ride and their unit.

The mounted color guard will arrive at Fort Riley May 10, weather permitting. If inclement weather occurs, the arrival time could vary.

A ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. May 12 in front of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) Fort Riley. The ride resembles what it would have been like to

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Field time preps cadets

Squad exercise assesses candidates at Fort Riley

By Mike Sykes
K-State Intern

As the artillery simulator blasted behind them, the leader ordered his squad to move ahead and to get down. Just as he thought he was OK, shots rang out and he realized his squad was already on the objective. As he called out the orders, the squad executed their battle drills, secured the objective and waited.

"Endex," yelled Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Inman, a military instructor for the cadets in the Wildcat Battalion of the Kansas State University Army ROTC program.

"Not exactly perfect execution but not bad considering it was the first time participating in a squad training exercise for some of the cadets," Inman said.

The Wildcat battalion spent April 23-25 at Fort Riley practicing battle drills and land navigation, part of their spring semester Field Training Exercise. In addition to their main training, they practiced setting up bivouac sites and other field skills.

This was the last chance for third-year cadets to hone their skills before heading to Fort Lewis this summer for ROTC Advanced Camp. There they will be tested against all other third-year cadets to determine their national ranking.

"It's good to get in more practice," said Cadet Robert Bystrek. "It's pretty easy, but you like to make sure you've got it all down."

For the cadets who aren't going to Fort Lewis this summer, the exercise was a good time to learn new skills and to see what it's like to spend a few days in the field. With temperatures nearing 90 degrees though, more than one cadet said they didn't know how the Soldiers in Iraq were handling the heat.

"I have the utmost respect for them," said fourth-year Cadet Steven Harker. "I can't imagine how hot they must be."

After spending Friday night in the field, the cadets woke around 4:30 a.m. to prepare for their squad training lanes. They conducted four each while led by third-year cadets. Each third-year cadet was evaluated on how well he or she led the lane and how well the battle drills were conducted. Fourth-year cadets provided the opposition on the lanes to add a little realism.

After their lanes were completed, the cadets broke up into groups for daytime land navigation. Third-year cadets went to their more challenging course while the first- and second-year cadets headed to their course. After the allotted time for completion, the cadets gathered for chow and waited until around 8:30 p.m. to begin their night land navigation.

The cadets had to find three of four points during the night. Once they were done, they were picked up and taken back to camp to rest their feet and get some sleep.

Sunday morning they packed up camp and headed back to clean weapons and turn in their gear.

"I think they did pretty well," Harker said. "I'm sure they'll all do really well at camp this summer," referring to the third-year cadets.



ROTC cadets at Kansas State University begin an early morning run during physical training. They wear reflective belts for safety.

KSU Wildcat Battalion

KSU to commission more officers

University expands ROTC program to meet need for more lieutenants

By Mike Sykes
K-State Intern

With the nation at war and its military fully engaged all around the globe, the Army needs more leaders who are experienced and worldly.

The Kansas State University Army ROTC battalion is helping produce them. From conferences in Washington, D.C., to exchange programs in Peru, the corps' future leaders training at K-State are gaining experience that will serve them and the Army well in years to come.

As the Wildcat battalion has risen to meet the increased needs of the Army, it has seen its mission to produce commissioned officers jump from 13 to 18 a year.

The U.S. Army Cadet Command has recognized the performance of the Wildcat battalion with this increase, said Lt. Col. Arthur DeGroat, K-State professor of military science.

This mission increase also results from the significant growth the battalion has seen recently. The program has become one of the largest programs in the

Midwest with 127 cadets, DeGroat said.

As the Wildcat battalion's size expands and its mission set increases, the quality of the officers it is commissioning has not suffered.

DeGroat said the battalion is currently being recognized as producing the best second lieutenant among the 20 universities and colleges in an eight-state area of the Midwest.

In addition, eight of 17 graduates were recently selected as Distinguished Military Graduates by the national board. They represented the top 20 percent of the 4,685 cadets seeking commissions this year.

The high quality of the cadets

See ROTC, Page 4

Army ROTC cadets at Kansas State University practice rappelling off a tower as part of their military training.

KSU Wildcat Battalion



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Brief trip turns into explosive journey

Press escort mission to nearby compound earns 70th Armor Soldier Purple Heart

By Gary Skidmore

Command Info. Officer

"I'm not sure if you win a Purple Heart or not," said Col. Russ Gold, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, commander, when he was about to pin the medal on Spc. Kurtis Vandonge of the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

"It's one of those things you never want to win," he said.

Vandonge received the medal April 22, in front of a company formation and his family for injuries he sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Vandonge and his section sergeant, Staff Sgt. Chris Kohunsky, who also was wounded in the improvised explosive device explosion, remember the attack as vividly today as they did the day it happened.

"It was a normal day," said Vandonge, a soft-spoken Soldier, "a hot day like all the others."

"I was the gunner," he said. "You have to keep watching for anything when you're driving down the road, so I watched everything. ... I could see cracks in windows and doors that were slightly open, but nothing real out

of the ordinary."

Kohunsky said that particular day they were escorting a video team from the Discovery Channel to another compound only a few minutes away.

"The other compound was only five minutes away," Kohunsky said. "There were a few roads we could have taken to get there. They were all pretty heavily traveled by coalition forces or American military vehicles, so we weren't too worried about the trip."

Kohunsky said the area was where he would throw candy out to kids.

"We never had any contact on that road," Kohunsky said. "There never were IEDs. People would wave. There was an alley-looking area where we would throw candy to the kids. It felt good to do that, and you knew these kids had never had a piece of gum before, never, and here we were with all this equipment on and you give them a piece of candy and their faces just light up, and that was good."

Kohunsky said he also knew when the kids came out into the alley they wouldn't be attacked.

It wasn't until he passed the alley and was only about two minutes from the next compound



Post/Skidmore

Spc. Kurtis Vandonge addresses members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, and his family after receiving the Purple Heart April 22.

that the IED exploded.

"It was the loudest noise, and the heat and vacuum were incredible. For a second or two I couldn't breathe," Kohunsky said.

"I was knocked down," Vandonge said. "I must have been unconscious for a second or two because, when I woke up, everything was in slow motion."

Vandonge immediately went back to his fighting position in the gunner's hatch but felt discomfort when he stood.

"I manned the weapon and

started looking for people that posed a threat to us," he said. "Someone, I think it was one of the Discovery Channel guys, said I had blood coming out. It wasn't until then that I realized I'd been wounded," he said.

"Man, I didn't know what it was at first," said Kohunsky about the explosion. "Was it a bomb, was it an RPG, was it one, or two or a combination of things? I just didn't know," he said.

Kohunsky said the vehicle was still rolling forward after the

attack and he didn't want to stop the vehicle where he was because he would be a sitting target.

"I had this ringing in my ears, and there was this smoke and dust inside the truck, and we were still moving," Kohunsky said. "But when we stopped, I checked with my wingman in the truck behind us and he had already assumed a defensive position. They were doing everything right," said Kohunsky. "Vandonge was at his weapon and my driver, Pvt. Steve Swanson, was already prepared to repel an attack."

Kohunsky said the injury to Vandonge was shrapnel to the butt. He received shrapnel to the elbow and the concussion was so intense that the videographer had blood coming from his ear. He has since recovered.

Kohunsky said his wingman said later there was such an explosion and so much dust that he thought the vehicle was vaporized in the explosion.

"When the dust began to settle, we had just made it around the corner," said Vandonge. "When the other truck could finally see, we weren't there and they thought we were blown into tiny pieces."

Vandonge said that had it not been for the new up-armored vehicle they were in, the explo-

sion probably would have killed someone and injured everyone severely.

"I felt lucky to have been in that truck," said Vandonge, who said they received the new vehicle two days prior to being attacked.

"It still had plastic on the seats," said Kohunsky. "It still had plastic on the rear view mirror, even the air in the factory tires was new," he said.

Kohunsky said after the attack the vehicle's windows were shattered and the radio was not working.

The windshield and all of the windows in the truck were cracked like a spider web, said Kohunsky. "The radios came off their mounts and everything was in total disarray."

Vandonge, Kohunsky and the Discovery Channel crew were taken to a hospital to have their wounds treated. Vandonge was kept overnight then released to his unit. Kohunsky returned to his unit several weeks later.

"They didn't remove the shrapnel from me," said Vandonge, laughing how that may affect future travel plans after he gets out of the Army. "I set off every metal scanner I pass through," he said with a smile. "That's not so bad," he said.

ROTC

continued from page 3



ROTC cadets at Kansas State University wear this shoulder patch.

commissioning from the battalion is directly linked to the expanded curriculum cadets use.

This broadened curriculum includes military internships, military exchange programs with other countries and participation in national cadet leadership seminars.

Cadet Robert Garven is one cadet who has benefited from the increased opportunities. He attended the Association of the U.S.

Army national conference this past semester with Cadet Mistee Richardson. He said he gained valuable insight into where the Army is headed in the future. Garven met Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker during the conference and saw the future Army rifle, the XMA.

Richardson said her most memorable moment was meeting Sgt. Fritz Niland, who was the inspiration for

the movie "Saving Private Ryan." She also met officers from many foreign nations and learned how they produce officers.

Several ROTC students will be traveling overseas in the near future to represent the Wildcat battalion.

Cadet Jason Davee will be traveling to Lima, Peru, as part of an exchange program with the Peruvian Military Academy.

Davee and another cadet will travel to Peru to give a

first-hand account of the K-State ROTC program to help the Peruvian Army design their new commissioning programs.

Two cadets from the Peruvian military will travel to Manhattan soon after to observe the Wildcat battalion.

These opportunities and others, such as a national cadet leadership seminar at Texas A&M that four K-State cadets attended recently, come at a cost,

DeGroat said. Several organizations and individuals have stepped up and helped fund these new initiatives, he said.

DeGroat pointed to the creation of a cadet subchapter of the Fort Riley-Central Kansas Chapter of AUSA that has helped fund travel to the national convention and helped cadets become members of the association.

Private donations from alumni and community

leaders have helped fund new programs as well, said DeGroat.

These contributions have helped the program grow by providing additional funding for scholarships to help bring more of the best officer prospects to K-State.

To continue meeting the ever-changing needs of the Army, DeGroat says the Wildcat battalion will have to continue growing opportunities for developmental activities and programs.

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Guardsman worries about job after deployment

Employer's lack of knowledge creates difficulty, stress for mobilized Soldier



By Sam Robinson
Staff writer

This spring Staff Sgt. Gary Harp got the opportunity to join a National Guard unit preparing to deploy to Afghanistan for a year. Accepting the challenge will mean being away from his wife and two children. It also could cost him his job status.

Harp, who has 15 years of combined service with the Army, hails from Wichita. He is a member of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment that will join other units supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Harp has been an employee of an aircraft company in Wichita for seven years. This is his second deployment during his employment there.

"The first time I deployed was to Germany with my old infantry unit, the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry," Harp said. "It was right after Sept. 11. Everyone was very supportive."

At the time, Harp was a crew chief with the company. He said there were several coworkers who could, and did, fill in for him. He also credits his support to the fact that his supervisor, at that time, was familiar with the military.

Now, as he prepares to deploy again, Harp said he feels like just a number to his employer and that he worries where he will be working when he returns.

"At first my supervisor told me

I couldn't go," Harp said. "I contacted McConnell Air Force Base, since they were near me, and got a copy of USERRA to give to my human resources department."

Very few of the 5,000 employees at his company are in a military reserve program, Harp said. He feels that is one reason the management was not familiar with the laws regarding active duty service for reserve component Soldiers.

"They told me they only had to let me go for weekend duty," Harp said. "Even before this mobilization I had problems with them allowing me to go to training."

"There are thousands of unemployed people that want your job." That's what they tell us," Harp said.

Harp is the only employee in the company that works in his area. While he is gone, workers from another department will have to fill in for him, plus do their jobs.

"We brought you into the department thinking you would be here, not Afghanistan," is what my supervisor told me," Harp said. "I told him, 'You brought me in knowing I was in the Guard.'"

He says it is likely the company will fill his position with a new employee while he is deployed. He worries when he returns that he will not be able to get his job back.

"I think they have accepted that they have to give me a job at the same pay, but who knows where it

will be," Harp said.

While he says he is not going to worry about the situation while he is deployed, he cannot help but think about the situation. Harp's wife, Sharon, also works at the company, and he is concerned that she would feel repercussions if he pushes the issue too hard.

"I served five years in the regular Army," Harp said. "Sharon is a textbook military wife. She is always supportive and willing to handle things while I'm gone. I don't want any pressure to be put on her, at least no more pressure."

Harp said his employer will pay the difference in his wage for up to two years while he is deployed.

He admits that will help relieve some of the stress, but he still has concerns.

"I think the recent use of so many Guard and reserve Soldiers will force more employers to become aware of the laws about our deployments," Harp said. "Education is the key on this and, well, on most things."

Because of the difficulties between Harp and his employer over this deployment, Harp said he would most likely look for another job when he comes home.

One thing that Harp will not consider is to get out of the National Guard.

"My dad did 31 years in the Guard, so I am going to do 32," Harp said. "I don't mind being deployed. It is what I signed up to do."



These stories comprise the final installment in a four-part series

About the series:

As the Army's mission evolves, the manner in which National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are used is changing. More mobilizations, longer deployments and expanding roles for reserve component Soldiers have created new challenges for America's citizen Soldiers.

Balancing a full-time, long-term career with the duty of military service can test the relationship between a Soldier and his or her employer.

Many businesses across the nation have stepped up to the call of the nation and supported their reserve component employees. Some, despite the law, have questioned the extended absences and pressured the employee not to serve.

As Soldiers begin to return from Iraq and other duty stations, they are faced with the decision of whether or not to reenlist. With more than 100,000 reserve component Soldiers serving on active duty, reserve strength will translate into the overall strength of America's forces.

This series looks at the law that protects reserve component Soldiers in the civilian workplace and tells the stories of some Reserve Soldiers at Fort Riley.

— Alan DeWoskin, employer.

Post-deployment physicals offered

By Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Reserve-component Soldiers being released from active duty after deployments can ask for a physical examination, a senior Army medical official said.

The physical is not part of required demobilization-related health assessments, said Col. James Gilman, chief of health policy and services in the Office of the Surgeon General.

Army policy requires all Soldiers, reserve and active, to complete a DD Form 2796 (Post-Deployment Health Assessment) that assesses deployment-specific issues and to have a face-to-face interview with a health care provider upon redeployment.

Health care providers arrange additional consultations, examinations, counseling and testing

whenever such are appropriate.

In addition, reserve component Soldiers being released from active duty complete a second health assessment, Report of Medical Assessment on DD Form 2697, that is more general in nature. Reserve Soldiers who do not deploy outside the United States go through the same steps, Gilman said.

"The surgeon general went beyond that and said that for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, we will provide every reserve component Soldier a physical before they are off active duty, if they want one," Gilman said.

"After Soldiers leave active duty, they have 180 days of additional Tricare benefits available once they get home," Gilman said.

"Our number one job is to take good care of Soldiers," he said.

How do you reply to the term 'Weekend Warrior'?

"Yeah, right!"

— Maj. Kevin Clark, G2

"I don't know what to say about that!"

— Sgt. Carroll Vinyard,
6025th Garrison Support Unit

"That is very out of date. Even before Operation Iraqi Freedom, we did more than weekends."

— Sgt. 1st Class William McLaren

"In close circles, it may be funny or cliché, but

really it's not. We are full-time Soldiers. In fact, we have a lot more to deal with, and we do it because we love it."

— Lt. Col. Rob Robison,
chief, legal assistance

"That has always been a derisive, comical expression. With the reliance upon reserve Soldiers growing over the years, the term will become archaic."

— Alan DeWoskin, employer.

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Two women fill top slots in commands

By Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army is continuing to diversify its leadership ranks by promoting and placing women in key positions.

Col. Carla Hawley-Bowland is the first female physician to be nominated for promotion to brigadier general. Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett will be the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan sergeant major, a new headquarters commanded by Lt. Gen. David Barno.

"I think the Army is one of most fair entities when it comes to gender and promotion," Hawley-Bowland said. "As long as people do the work and do a good job, they can succeed in the Army."

Twelve female general officers serve in the Army today. Nine hold the rank of brigadier general and three serve as major generals. Ten years ago only three female one-star generals served in the Army.

The first member of the Women Army Corps to be promoted to command sergeant major was Command Sgt. Maj. Yzetta L. Nelson in March 1968. Today 82 women wear the wreathed star in the middle of their chevrons.

Hawley-Bowland and Pritchett both said that serving in a wide array of jobs and positions helped them gain vital experience and led to their success.

Pritchett served as a drill sergeant, recruiter, first sergeant and instructor at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy during her 30-year military career. Pritchett will be the senior enlisted adviser to Barno.

"Everything you do over your career helps prepare you for whatever is next," Pritchett said. "I served as the battalion sergeant major in the 101st Airborne Division, and we deployed to Somalia. So I have experience in deploying and doing peace and humanitarian operations."

During the past six years, Pritchett worked as the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth command sergeant major.

"My time in Training and Doctrine Command has been rewarding," Pritchett said. "I've had the opportunity to oversee the training and education system, now I'm looking forward to seeing our NCOs put it into action."

Pritchett said that she's not yet aware of her new job specifics, but the role of the new three-star headquarters will

be to continue the international efforts in building a stable and secure environment for Afghanistan's reconstruction, and to help prevent the re-emergence of terrorists in the country.



Carla Bowland



Cynthia Pritchett

She also heads the Clinical Services Division, San Antonio, Texas. Part of that job consists of looking at the individual augmentees that are needed in the medical field around the world, and placing active-duty doctors in positions whenever there is a shortage of Reserve personnel.

Hawley-Bowland jokingly said she always ends up with more than one job just before explaining her third role as the deputy chief of Health Policy and Services at U.S. Army Medical Command. In that role, a few of the programs she manages are TriCare, Patient Administrative Division, Behavioral Health and Allied Health.

Being the first female physician to be nominated for promotion to general officer doesn't make her nervous. She said any stress would come from the increased workload in a new job with higher responsibility. However, Hawley-Bowland said she has never run from an increased workload.

Pritchett said that she has been the first female Soldier to occupy a number of positions, and that the Army has trained her well and made her flexible and adaptable.

Barno said that Pritchett's depth of experience and extraordinary talent made her ideally suited for the job.

"She is a superb, tough and highly competent senior non-commissioned officer," Barno said.

Suicides raise concern

Health officials urge stressed Soldiers to seek medical help

By Doug Sample
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The number of suicides in Iraq has the full attention of Defense Department health officials, who are asking Soldiers suffering from combat related stress to seek medical assistance.

In an interview with American Forces Radio and Television Service, Dr. David N. Tornberg, deputy assistant secretary of defense for clinical and program policy, said suicide deaths are a "primary concern" for his office.

It's very important for anyone who is feeling stressed to come forward, to speak to his or her chaplain, to speak to a mental health practitioner or physician, to speak to someone in the line of authority, he said.

Especially troubling to Tornberg is an Army report by mental health experts that revealed soldiers committed suicide at elevated rates during 2003, with those deployed to Iraq and Kuwait experiencing the greatest increase.

DoD officials have reported a drop in the number of suicides this year, with no suicides reported in January or February, and just one in March.

Tornberg said males ages 18 to 25 with financial, legal and relationship problems compose the largest risk group for suicide.

According to DoD statistics, 24 suicide deaths occurred in 2003 in Kuwait and Iraq - a rate of 17.3 per 100,000. The overall Army suicide rate during the same time period was 12.8 per 100,000 soldiers.

Still, officials say the Army suicide rates of 12.2 for 2003 and 11.9 from 1995 to 2002 remain lower than the national average of 21.5 per 100,000 for males ages 20 to 34 - the age span for most U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

Though the military has several comprehensive programs in place to address the mental health needs of service members, Tornberg said more emphasis will be placed on suicide prevention training for leaders and troops, beginning before and after the deployment cycle.

Before deployment, service members receive mental health screenings. During their deployment, mental health support teams are available to provide assistance as needed, Tornberg said.

Upon redeployment, service members go through a re-integration process designed to help their transition back into family life.

Need help?

In this time of high operational tempo and long deployments, many families are under additional stress themselves and are concerned for their loved ones overseas. For families experiencing problems, help is available through their local family support center.

Another resource is the One Source Program, a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, toll-free information and referral service available via telephone and the Internet to active duty Soldiers, mobilized Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, deployed civilians and their families. The One Source program provides information on matters ranging from everyday concerns to deployment and reintegration issues.

Servicemembers and their families may access One Source in the following ways:

Army One Source — Web site: <https://www.armyone-source.com> (fill in user name: army; password: one-source); in the states, phone toll free (800) 464-8107; outside the states, phone U.S. access code + (800) 464-81077 (all 11 digits must be dialed); for hearing-impaired, phone (800) 364-9188; for Spanish speakers, phone (888) 732-9020

Air Force One Source — Web site: <https://www.airforceone-source.com> (fill in user name: airforce; password: ready); phone (800) 707-5784

Servicemembers are also screened for mental health problems.

"Follow-on services are available if they should encounter any difficulties," Tornberg said.

The military conducted a first-of-its-kind study of servicemembers in a battle zone last year, Tornberg said. Mental health experts surveyed 756 soldiers in Iraq between late August and early October.

The study consisted of hundreds of interviews with Soldiers, their leaders and support forces, such as behavioral health and medical-care providers and ministry staffs.

"They learned a lot from that trip," he said. "First and foremost, it reaffirmed the fact that the battlefield today, despite all training, is a very stressful environment."

Tornberg said, surprisingly, some 77 percent of the troops interviewed did not feel an excessive degree of stress, and felt they were managing their stresses well. Tornberg said he believes they considered the stress levels they anticipated as the benchmark in determining whether they experienced excessive stress.

Still, he said recommendations in the report have called for making behavioral health care more accessible to Soldiers in combat and other high-stress environ-

mentally well in uplifting the mental health of the troops."

Tornberg noted that 96 percent of the Soldiers who have ready access to mental health resources are able to return to their units.

He said each service has its own stress management program to acquaint servicemembers to the various reactions to stress and the appropriate management of those conditions.

The Army's Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is a computer-based program that, with classroom training, offers Soldiers and leaders training involving suicidal behavior.

The Army introduced the program about three years ago to give anyone the tools to intervene if he or she comes in contact with a person at risk of committing suicide.

A "Soldiers, Leaders and Communities Saving Lives" suicide prevention campaign launched earlier was aimed at teaching Soldiers how to recognize early signs of suicidal behavior and how to respond.

In February the Army set up a toll-free crisis hotline to help curb suicides among Soldiers during high-stress periods.

Tornberg urged servicemembers who are having problems dealing with stress to come forward and address their issues. He also wants servicemembers to look out for comrades who may be displaying signs of stress.

"It would be important to talk to that individual," he said, "but also seek help for him or her as well."

Tornberg said many servicemembers don't seek help from a mental health professional because they see that as a sign of weakness or believe a stigma is attached to seeking help.

"It is absolutely not," he said. "Reaction to stress is a condition experienced throughout society, not just in the military — particularly in the young, particularly in the aged," he explained. "It's something that we as a society have to address."

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Army planning future without Comanches

Editor's note: This is one in a series of articles relating to the 17 Army focus areas.

By Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army's aviation fleet is undergoing a total overhaul, and the main priority is increasing survivability to protect the aircraft and the Soldiers it carries.

In the near future, helicopters in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait will be equipped with Ballistic Protection Blankets, Missile Approach Detectors, Countermeasure Sets and Radar and Laser Detecting Sets, a Pentagon official said.

"We're going to ask industry what weapon systems our potential adversaries may have, and we're going to be very innovative in how we deal with those threats," said a senior official from the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, G3, during the Army Aviation Association of America Annual Convention.

By 2011, the Army will purchase 796 new aircraft, upgrade the current fleet to be more survivable, lethal and agile and work with the Marines to develop the Joint Multi-Role Helicopter.

During a 4 1/2 month study, members on the Army Aviation Task Force made more than 120 recommendations on how to turn aviation brigades into joint and expeditionary forces that are modular units of action. The total bill comes to \$12.8 billion, the Pentagon official said.

From the recommendations came the idea to develop three new aircraft — a light utility helicopter, an armored reconnaissance helicopter and a cargo aircraft.

In a concerted effort, Fort Rucker, Ala., Training and Doctrine Command and the Headquarters Department of the Army staff will decide on the capabilities they want, then let industry work to meet the niche, said the G3 official.

A more immediate addition to the aviation ranks will be unmanned aerial vehicles. The Army was given three I-GNAT UAVs as a congressional plus up. Two are deployed to Iraq.

It's not just about I-GNAT. UAVs in general are a great contribution to the war fighter, the Pentagon official said. They perform reconnaissance and surveillance missions and are becoming more and more important, the official added.

The Army will spend \$390 million toward UAV acceleration. The Central Command

area already uses Ravens, which are tactical UAVs used at the platoon level. The smaller UAVs are referred to as Shadow and the larger ones, I-GNAT and Hunter, are used at division and brigade levels.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker advised the Aviation Task Force to improve survivability, increase deployability, optimize capabilities and shorten the logistics tail, the Pentagon official said.

Now the aviation field is following the infantry's example of the Stryker by creating a "common cockpit." Like the Stryker, which has 10 variants that have same or similar parts, helicopters will share the same hardware and software.

In 2003, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky., implemented its version of the "common cockpit," referred to as the Common Avionics Architecture System, or CAAS.

By placing common hardware and software in three of the regiment's aircraft, training was simplified and logistics demands on the unit were reduced, the G3 official said.

The open avionics architecture also will make it easier to upgrade the aircraft with third-party vendor software, the official said.

EEO office searches for issue managers

Collateral duty requires 25 percent of workday

Special to the Post

Fort Riley's Equal Employment Opportunity Office staff wants nominations for people interested in being members of the Special Emphasis Program Committee.

The office is also recruiting collateral duty Special Emphasis Program managers for federal women, Black employment, Hispanic employment, Asian-Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native and Individuals With Disabilities issues.

Fort Riley and other installations plan to use the SEP to address the employment issues and concerns of those groups, including disabled veterans.

Department of the Army policy challenges installations to:

— Ensure equal opportunity in

the hiring, advancement, training, and treatment of all employment of all employees and applicants for employment.

— Strive to achieve a diverse civilian workforce with representation commensurate with the relevant census data.

— Integrate the goals and objectives of the SEP into all aspects of civilian personnel management.

— Ensure access to buildings and facilities, physical structures or environment to individuals with disabilities, and

— Ensure reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination of individuals with disabilities when participating in federally funded programs.

The Fort Riley EEO officer will appoint five SEP managers within the next few weeks. These

persons will serve as subject matter experts on various issues affecting the employment of their respective groups.

Each manager will receive training within six months of his or her appointment.

While time required for program administration on a collateral duty basis may vary, employees should be allowed about 25 percent of their time to carry out their duties.

Department of the Army recommends selected employees be at the GS9 level or above to hold SEP manager responsibilities.

Information regarding these programs can be found at the EEO/Civil Rights Web site: <http://eeoa.army.pentagon.mil>.

Anyone interested should contact the EEO Office at 239-2595 and request a nomination packet.

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New courses cover logistics functions

Special to the Post

The DAU Continuous Learning Center now offers five new continuous learning modules: Defense Subcontract Management, Depot Maintenance Partnering, Force-centric Logistics Enterprise, Information Assurance and Reverse Auctioning.

The Defense Subcontract Management module addresses subcontracting activities from the perspective of the staff of a defense acquisition program office.

The module also addresses the activities of supporting government offices and agencies, issues faced by prime contractors employing subcontractors, and issues faced by subcontractors themselves.

Depot Maintenance Partnering is a self-paced module comprised

of nine lessons.

Each lesson is from seven to 16 pages in length. This module introduces students to ways in which depot maintenance partnering can be used as a cost-effective technique for applying a performance-based logistics philosophy in the real world.

Force-centric logistics enterprise is centered on the need to provide a military force with all of the war-waging support it needs: ordnance and supplies, intelligence, communications, medical support, etc.

The FLE continuous learning module examines the Department of Defense's ongoing efforts to modernize its logistics organization and capabilities.

This module focuses on describing the importance of information assurance, the program manager's responsibilities,

and steps for integrating IA into an acquisition program.

Reverse Auctioning is a self-paced module with three lessons. Each lesson is from 20 to 30 pages long.

This module provides a basic introduction of a new Internet-based contracting technique used by the DoD acquisition community to achieve significant cost savings through the use of e-commerce capabilities.

The module is intended for beginning and middle level acquisition managers who might use the Internet-based technique in their daily business environments.

To access these modules, log in to the DAU Continuous Learning Center at <http://clc.dau.mil>, select the "Learning Center" and then select the "Course Information & Access" link. To launch the module, select the name from the list.

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Commentary

Friday, April 30, 2004

Fort Riley Post

Page 9

Financial Smarts

Being prepared good motto; read this before buying vehicle

By Juan Garcia

Legal assistance attorney

There it is. Gleaming chrome on the dealer's lot. Vroom Vroom. And, they'll even finance it for you on the spot, today.

It is the car you've been dreaming about. All you need to do is sign some papers, right now, and you can have the keys. So easy and so tempting. You want that car.

All of your friends are driving brand new cars. Your barracks' parking lot or the street where you live is full of nice and shiny new cars except for one — yours.

The car salesperson wants you to buy now. He or she has a special deal and financing just for you, because you're a Soldier. What are you going to do about it?

Nothing. That's right, nothing.

Think before buying

You should never buy a car for any of the reasons stated. You should only buy a car if you really need one and can afford it.

Affording it includes the price of the vehicle, the cost of insurance, the cost of repairs, service and maintenance, and the full cost of borrowing any money to pay for all of this. Remember, you still have to have money for other things, such as groceries, clothing, and rent.

Buying a car, if you do not really need one or cannot afford one, is not an economically wise decision.

Car salespersons are well trained and experienced in the art of influencing people to spend money on cars. That is why they are called "salespersons." They make their living by making sales. Even if you already know you do not need or cannot afford a car right now, they are trained to change your mind. They are there to put you behind the wheel of

your dream machine. But remember, that is their business. They make money for themselves and for the dealership by selling cars.

Also, they have a clear advantage. What they sell is desirable. All of us like late model, clean, and shiny new cars. We also like that new-car smell. A nice car makes us look good and feel important. Car salespersons know that and will tell you that buying a car is the right thing to do. They do not care if doing so is not a financially wise decision for you. They don't care because they are not spending their money; they are spending yours.

If buying a car you do not need is not bad enough, paying too much for it makes it worse.

You might pay too much for it if you are young and have little, bad, or no credit history. You also might pay too much if you do not know the car's fair market value.

If you were aware of how much more than the sticker price you would be paying for a car, would you still buy it?

The answer is probably "no." The problem some of us face, however, is that we do not realize that until we have already signed a binding contract — in other words, until it is too late.

Avoid mistakes

So, how can you protect yourself from making a financial mistake that will haunt you for several years?

First, ask yourself this question: "Do I really need to buy a car right now?" If the answer is "yes," the next questions are: "How can I make sure I pay only the car's fair market value?" and "How can I get the best financing terms?"

You want to stay in control of this big financial undertaking. Here are some basic financial survival steps you can take to accomplish that.

Examine and work on your financial situation before

What will new car cost?

The chart below will give you an idea of what financing a car for five years at various interest rates and paying no money down will do to the price of a \$10,000 car.

Price	Money down	Interest rate	Payment	Interest	Interest/price ratio
\$10,000	\$0	5%	\$188.71	\$1,322.74	13%
\$10,000	\$0	10%	\$212.47	\$2,748.23	27.48%
\$10,000	\$0	16.99%	\$248.47	\$4,908.32	49.08%
\$110,000	\$0	20%	\$264.94	\$5,896.33	58.96%

you even consider buying a car.

Save money for a healthy down payment. Establish a good credit history and get pre-approved by your bank or credit union before visiting car dealerships. One way to build your credit is to get small loans at low rates and pay all your bills on time. Stay away from high-interest loans designed to help junior soldiers finance a car and build or repair credit history.

Determine what you really need in a vehicle before you go shopping. What kind of car, van or truck do you really need? Looking at cars is fine, but once you are on the dealer's lot, you might give in to temptation or sales pressure to buy what you do not need.

Research the market value of the vehicle you want. What is its retail value, its suggested retail value, its private-party sale value, its finance value, its wholesale value, its trade-in value, and its factory invoice cost? The best place to research the answers to those questions is the Internet. Some banks and credit unions may also give you this information. Knowing your desired car's value is important. If your lender repossesses your car because you fell behind in the payments and sells it at an auction for less than its market value, you are stuck paying off the rest of the loan.

Compare prices and numbers. Go to several dealers and shop around for the lowest price. Also, shop around for the best financing at dealerships, banks, and credit unions. Beware of lenders who specialize in financing junior soldiers and people with bad or no credit. They will charge very high interest rates.

Learn to resist pressure and temptation. Take your time to make your own decisions. This is America, the biggest market in the world. Car factories make thousands of vehicles every day. The one you have your eyes on is not the only one around. If you found this car, you will find others like it. If multiple salespeople team up to make you buy a car, then you can assume they are pressuring you. Leave the dealership immediately.

Call for backup. Do not go to a dealership alone. If you are inexperienced, shy or young, have someone, such as your sergeant, accompany you to the dealer. Because he or she will not be buying the car and might be more experienced in this process, he or she will listen and observe the transaction from an unbiased perspective and help you keep a cool head.

Negotiate. You are the purchaser. You are spending your money. You have the right to

negotiate the best possible deal in terms of the price, the warranty and the financing.

Keep you wallet and pen "on safe." Make sure you clearly understand all the transaction documents before you even think about signing them. Ask the dealer for copies of all papers and documents concerning the sale, financing, and warranties, so you can take them home and read them at your own pace. If you do not understand them, have someone read them for you and discuss what the language, numbers, and terms mean. Lawyers at the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office are willing and ready to help you go over these papers and documents. Call 239-3117 for an appointment.

Never buy or drive a car off the lot without all the financing disclosures and documentation of a complete sale with fully approved financing.

Never sign a contingency clause allowing you to drive the

car pending the approval of financing. If the financing falls through, you've bought the car and have no money to pay for it. If you do not pay for the car or secure other financing, it will be repossessed. At that point however, dealers may promise to help you get other financing. Typically, that means much higher interest rates. If you get caught in this situation, return the car immediately and walk away from the deal.

Complete or line through every block of the sales contract and financing documentation. This prevents salespersons from filling in these spaces with terms unfavorable to you. If blanks or spaces are left blank because they are irrelevant to the transaction, draw a line through them.

Avoid trading in your old car with the same dealer. The dealer will make money on every transaction. The dealer will give you less for your trade-in than you could get if you sold your car on your own. If the dealer promises to give more for the trade-in, then the dealer will charge you more for the new car. If the dealer says he already sold your trade-in, demand to see the dealer's inventory list and your trade-in's title transfer, which federal law requires dealers to retain.

Make sure the car works. Get a pre-purchase inspection by a mechanic or garage that has no affiliation with the dealership. If the car needs repair, make this part of your pricing evaluation.

DAILY UNION
2 x 5"
Black Only
Military Life

GRANDVIEW AUTOMOTIVE
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5, grandview auto

STATE FARM INSURANCE & FINANCIAL
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5StateFarm-seminar

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
2x5.5SethChildsCinema

EASTSIDE MARKET-MANHATTAN
2 x 6"
Black Only
2x5 EastSide WestSide Mkt.

FT. RILEY NATIONAL BANK
2 x 6"
Black Only
2x6 ft. Riley national bank





DR SHROYER
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
6x21.5,dr shroyer





Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, April 30, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Sports news in brief

Outdoor Rec offers new boat

Fort Riley's Outdoor Recreation Center in building 9011 on Rifle Range Road now rents a new 21-foot Sun Tracker pontoon boat to eligible users. Cost is \$125 per day or \$200 per weekend. A \$200 deposit is required to reserve the boat.

Maximum capacity is 13 people or 1,800 pounds. A Boater's Safety Test is required before renting the boat.

At Custer Hill Golf Course:

April 30 -- KSU Recreation Society Annual Golf Tournament, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

May 1 -- Golf Course Gaggles, 7 to 8 a.m.

May 2 -- Golf Course Gaggles, 7 to 8 a.m.

Exercise classes offered on post

May 3 -- Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

May 6 -- Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call King Field House at 239-3868.

5K, 10K runs set in Olathe

The Kansas Heart and Sole Classic 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer runs will take place from 6 to 10:30 a.m. May 1 in downtown Olathe. The certified 10K run is part of the Mid-America Running Association Grand Prix Circuit.

The races will begin at 111 Cherry St. in Johnson County Square. For more information, call (913) 492-8360 or visit www.olatherunningclub.com on the Internet.

3-D archery shoot set

The next monthly bow shoot for unlimited, limited, bare bow, open, traditional, women's, and youth classifications will be 10 a.m. May 2 in the Byron Walker Wildlife Area on Highway 54 eight miles west of Kingman.

For more information, call (620) 532-3242.

Lanes feature extreme games

Extreme bowling - bowling under strobe lights - is offered at discounts for families and individual soldiers using Custer Hill Lanes on post.

Families can bowl in the extreme conditions from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sundays for \$10 per family per lane. They can rent bowling shoes for \$1 a pair.

Soldiers can bowl under the extreme conditions from 10 p.m. Fridays to 1 a.m. Saturdays and from 10 p.m. Saturdays to 1 a.m. Sundays for \$11 per person.

Families can skate together

The Riley Wheels Skating Rink offers family roller-skating on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$6 per family of six people. Each additional family member pays \$1.

For more information, call 239-3764.

Infantry triumphs



Mike Brown, left, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, attempts to spike the ball but is blocked by MEDDAC's Marcus Hanson, center, and John Hanes, right.

MEDDAC fights hard in championship game

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info. Officer

The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, dominated volleyball league play and ended with an undefeated season. They also dominated the 2004 Fort Riley Post Volleyball Tournament April 20-21 at King Field House.

The first night, the Infantry took a bye. That pitted Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, against USA Medical Department Activity.

MEDDAC moved into the winners bracket by defeating PSB in the first two games of the match, 25-19 and 25-17.

"We were winning in the first game," said Coach Kenneth Horton, "but dropped the game in a heartbreaker."

Horton said that loss had a dramatic effect on the team. They lost the next game and match and faced 1st Bn., 41st Inf., the next evening.

When 1st Bn., 41st Inf., took to the court, they were looking to put 15th PSB away as soon as possible and get on to the championship match. It didn't work out quite that way for them though.

The Infantry struggled initially but managed a 26-24 win in the first game.

"We were just warming up," said Oswaldo Rivera, who is currently at the All-Army Volleyball Team tryouts.

In the second game of the match, the Infantry took no prisoners and gave no quarter as it hammered PSB 25-6.

The Infantry was on its way to the championship game.

Play was tight in the three-game match between MEDDAC and PSB to see who would play the Infantry for the first-place trophy.

"They played a good match," said John Kurtz from MEDDAC. "I thought we were in trouble a couple of times."

MEDDAC took the match with



Post/Name
MEDDAC's Marcus Hanson, standing, helps teammate Gary Moore to his feet after he attempted to save a point. MEDDAC took second place in the 2004 Battalion Level Volleyball Tournament.

a 25-18 win in the first game and a 16-14 win in the third game but lost 25-20 to PSB in the second game of the match.

That set the stage for the championship game pitting MEDDAC against 1st Bn., 41st Inf., for the title.

The Infantry assaulted the MEDDAC team with power serves and spikes at nearly every possession of the ball.

Joe Nancew and Henry Phillips seemed to own the court and could do no wrong for the Infantry.

Nancew's power serve was so strong MEDDAC couldn't mount a defense against it. It wasn't until he hit the net and lost the serve that MEDDAC got a breather from the big Hawaiian.

Phillips' game was played at the net with numerous blocks and spikes. When the first game

See V-ball, Page 12

1st Battalion, 41st Infantry ruins Medic's no-loss bid

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

The Infantry returned from training in the field to ruin USA MEDDAC's perfect soccer season April 26.

The slapped-together team from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, forfeited their first league game because of military training but evened their record with a 2-1 victory against the league's powerhouse in the evening's opener.

Airmen of 10th ASOs got back on the winning side of the score-

board in the nightcap against 924th Military Police Battalion. The Airmen defeated the MPs 3-1 and savored their revenge 1-0 loss to the MPs April 15.

The Infantry plays tough and MEDDAC's ball-handling skill and game strategy ran into a defense that seemed to surprise the confident Medics. Still, MEDDAC scored first just six minutes into the game when Russell Trepianer sent the ball past the Infantry goalie from about dead center in front of the goal.

MEDDAC's celebration ended about six minutes later, however,

when Barry Baptist-Swift tied the game for the Infantry. The Infantry defense protected that point by keeping the Medics in their half of the field for another five minutes.

MEDDAC slipped past the Infantry's front line for one goal attempt at 17 minutes into the first period, but the Infantry charged back across midfield again and player/coach Henry Phillips scored the go-ahead point on a penalty kick about two minutes later.

See Soccer, Page 12



Post/Heronemus
USA MEDDAC's Caleb Ekane kicks a pass between two 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, defenders.

Long gym, other centers' floors being refurbished

Work schedule

Fitness center floors scheduled for floor maintenance are:

King Field House now through May 7

Craig Fitness Center May 10-14

The locker rooms in King Field House will be closed through May 5.

By Phillip Witzke
105th MPAD

It seems everywhere you travel on post these days there is some type of ongoing construction or renovation. "Do not enter" signs, "keep out" notices and orange barriers abound.

While new structures go up, current structures are being upgraded. Work that ended last week at Long Fitness Center upgraded the facility with new hardwood floors.

Floor surfaces were sanded,

boards were replaced where necessary and a new finish was applied.

While the facility never closed its doors during the major maintenance project, the basketball courts and racquetball courts remained temporarily off limits to users.

"What we really did was routine maintenance," said Reed Scott, sports specialist with Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "Refurbishing the floors periodically prevents additional wear (that would cause) additional

repairs and have the floors down for longer (periods of) time."

"It is actually better time-wise and cost-wise to do a little bit every year than to do more in-depth (maintenance) on the floors later," he said.

The maintenance on the floors at Long Fitness Center is only the beginning of scheduled maintenance of fitness facilities at America's Warfighting Center. Other centers will be upgraded as well, one at a time.

"We try to never have them shut down at the same time,"

Scott said.

"The inconvenience may be that if someone wants to play basketball, they may have to go down to King Field House. But, at least there is a facility for them to play in," he said.

The same would hold true for the racquetball courts that are scheduled for maintenance. Some will be down, but not all, he said.

Fitness center staffs have not set a date to reopen the courts. However, Scott said all the courts at Long Fitness Center should be open in early May.



Disabled Soldiers, veterans hit ski slopes

By Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

SNOWMASS VILLAGE, Colo. -- Cruising down a ski slope near Aspen, Soldiers who lost limbs in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom spent a week this month proving disabilities don't have to put the brakes on active lifestyles.

More than 20 Soldiers and veterans from those operations joined about 300 veterans of other eras for the 18th Annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass Village April 4-9.

They came from 41 states in wheelchairs, walking on artificial legs, or led by seeing-eye dogs to

take lessons in adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing.

The clinic included other activities, such as sled hockey, trap shooting, rock climbing, horse-back riding and scuba diving. Agents from the U.S. Secret Service taught self-defense classes.

For Soldiers like Sgts. Erick Castro and Tyler Hall, the clinic - paid for by business and individual donations - taught new skills and showed them they can still enjoy activities they did before losing their legs in Iraq.

Hall, 23, had been on a snowboard before heading to Iraq last year with his Fort Lewis, Wash., unit, the 44th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Group, 4th Infantry Division.

He was traveling in a convoy near Tikrit Aug. 22 when a roadside bomb hurled Hall from the armored personnel carrier he was in. He suffered a head injury that put him in a coma for a month, broke his back in three places, and had his left leg amputated just below the knee. At one point, the Army classified him as dead.

He admits being nervous at getting on a snowboard again.

"I just wanted to make sure I didn't get hurt," Hall said. "I'm doing pretty well with my recovery, but I wanted to make sure I didn't set myself back."

His mother, Kim, accompanied him to the clinic. She, too, was wounded as she watched her son from the sidelines. She made sure

instructors were aware of his condition, including the presence of a shunt in his head. Although Hall took a few spills, he got up every time and continued to slide forward.

"He's been so excited, doing something he was doing before getting hurt," said Kim Hall. "That's what makes me happy."

Sgt. Peter Damon, 31, tried to snowboard about five years ago without much success. A member of the 126th Aviation Battalion of the Massachusetts National Guard, Damon lost both forearms in October while changing a tire on a Black Hawk in Balad, Iraq. The tire exploded, injuring Damon and killing Pfc. Paul Bueche.

Damon attended the clinic with his wife, Jennifer. This time, he triumphed on the snowboard.

Castro, 24, gave sled hockey a shot. A California native, he had never played hockey on an ice rink. On an indoor rink in Aspen, Castro got help lowering himself into the sled - a form-fitting seat mounted on two blades, with a slender metal frame jutting out front that supported his right leg.

With a short stick in each hand, Castro tentatively pushed himself across the ice. As confidence and momentum grew, he aimed for a puck, slapping it with the blade end of the stick toward the net. It missed. No matter, he tried again. "I didn't know what to expect when I came, but I'm having a lot

of fun," Castro said.

Castro lost his left leg at the hip when the armored personnel carrier he was in was ambushed Aug. 25 near Fallujah. A rocket-propelled grenade bored through the vehicle, tearing through Castro and two buddies, Pfc. Tristan Wyatt and Sgt. Mike Meinen. All three lost a leg to the single round. Wyatt and Meinen also participated in the clinic.

"I thought that after losing my leg, I'd be stuck in a wheelchair," said Castro, who plans to take a medical retirement and go back to California to study engineering. "Being here has changed that. I've met several vets who have the same injury and are showing me they're doing all this stuff."

Eastern screech owl keeps house year-round at Fort Riley

Special to the Post

The eastern screech owl (*Otus asio*) is a bird of prey and is a non-migratory resident of Fort Riley. They have been called by many names such as the common screech owl, ghost owl, dusk owl, little-eared owl, spirit owl, red owl, cat owl, little horned owl, and many more.

Eastern and western screech owls were formerly considered a single species known simply as the screech owl but they are now separated into two distinct species.

The eastern screech owl ranges in eastern North America from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, northeast Mexico, and south Ontario to Florida.

The eastern screech owl is a small, woodland owl. There are two colour morphs: a gray phase and a reddish-brown phase. They have large heads and large, immobile bright yellow eyes and ear tufts. The bill is yellowish or olive green.

The adult gray phase has facial disks dusky white with fine grey-

brown mottling, bordered by black. The body is overall gray-brown, with gray narrow vertical stripes, bars, and spots on underparts, and barred wings and tail.

The legs have light cinnamon buff, and toes are yellow.

The red phase adult has similar pattern to gray phase except cinnamon instead of gray with a plan light cinnamon face and whitish supercilary and loreal plumage.

The gray phase juvenile is similar to adults but indistinct stripes and bars are more patterned and many feathers tipped with white.

The red phase juvenile is grayish brown and has a distinctly rufescent colour overall with bars and stripes less distinct than adults.

Eastern screech owls inhabit open mixed woodlands, deciduous forests, parklands, wooded suburban areas, riparian woods along streams and wetlands, meadows, and fields. They roost mainly in nature cavities in large trees, including cavities open to the sky during dry weather.

Eastern screech owls are nocturnal, hunting from dusk to

On the Wildside: News About Nature

dawn, with most hunting being done during the first few hours of darkness. They mainly search for prey while in flight, rather than from a perch, mostly in open woodlands, along the edges of open fields or wetlands.

When prey is spotted, the owl dives quickly and seizes it in its talons. Their favorite prey is microtine rodents and deer mice. Other mammals include wood and Norway rats, cotton rats, squirrels, bats, and moles.

They also like large flying insects such as beetles, katydids, grasshoppers, locusts, roaches, and moths.

Birds, including many songbirds, make up seven percent of their diet.

The eastern screech owl has two types of songs. The first is primarily territorial and consists of a trill of low notes. The second is used during courtship and to drive off intruders. It is a descending whiny.

An eastern screech owl will

erect its feathered "ear" tufts, stretch its body and tighten its feathers and close its eyes to narrow slits to blend in with tree branches and foliage or to look like a branch stub to avoid detection, but will take flight when it knows it has been detected.

Owls have the best hearing of all birds. Their ears are located on the sides of their heads and are hidden by feathers. The ear tufts on the top of the head aid in camouflage and recognition between individuals and have nothing to do with hearing.

Courtship begins as early as February with egg laying in late March or April. They nest in tree cavities with enlarged natural cav-

ities being preferred. They will also use old woodpecker cavities and accept nest boxes readily.

Pairs will often reuse nest sites in consecutive years. No nest material is added, and the two to eight eggs are laid on natural sawdust on the floor of the cavity. Eggs are laid every two days and incubation begins after the laying of the first egg. The incubation period is about 26 days and the fledging period about 31 days.

Females do most of the incubating but males will assist. The male feeds the incubating female, and both feed and tend the downy white chicks. Eastern screech owls are single brooded, but they may re-nest if the first clutch is lost.

In captivity eastern screech

owls have lived for more than 20 years, but wild birds would be unlikely to reach this age. Juvenile and adult mortality may be as high as 70 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

Predators of these owls include great horned owls, barred owls, short-eared owls, hawks, weasels, raccoons, skunks, snakes, crows, and blue jays. Even cannibalism by other screech owls occurs.

Among the different American Indian tribes, there are many diverse beliefs regarding the owl. To an Apache Indian, dreaming of an owl signified approaching death.

The Cherokee shamans valued eastern screech owls as consultants because the owls could bring on sickness as punishment.

Soccer continued from page 11

MEDDAC played the Infantry harder throughout the second period, advancing to take more shots on the goal but couldn't get past the Infantry goalie.

MEDDAC's goalie faced more Infantry shots in the second period, too, but easily denied most of them.

The physical nature of the contest and the speed both teams used on offense seemed to take a toll on player skills. More players tumbled to the grass, more balls were kicked out of bounds and MEDDAC finally went to its deep bench for substitutes about eight minutes into the final period.

Rough play got rougher and one MEDDAC player was ejected for intentional roughness. One referee ejected an Infantry player on the sideline earlier for using foul language.

Determined to come back, MEDDAC launched so many scoring threats against their opponents that the Infantry players opted many times to kick the ball out of play rather than meet MEDDAC head-on.

The Infantry seemed to regroup late in the last period and worried the MEDDAC defense and goalie

Standings

As of April 26

Team	Record
MEDDAC	3 1
15th PSB	2 2
10th ASOS	2 2
924th MP	2 3
1-41 Inf.	1 1
937th Eng.	0 1

with numerous shots on the goal but couldn't score.

10th ASOS beats MPs

In the second game April 26, 10th ASOS appeared determined to revenge themselves against the 924th MPs.

The MPs dominated on offense through much of the first half of the period, but ASOS's offense took off midway through the period and the MP goalie faced a lot of scoring attempts.

He fended off the Airmen's attack until 14 minutes into the first period when Dan Reed sent a penalty kick into the net for the game's first score. ASOS led 1-0

when the period ended.

The MPs' offense threatened early in the second period but couldn't find the net.

One shot about three minutes into the period got a little help from an ASOS defender who tried to head the ball away from the goal. He butted it against the top bar and, fortunately for the Airmen, it rebounded away from the goal instead of going inside.

The Airmen boosted their offensive effort after that and kept attacking the MP goal until Robert Miller scored their second point about 10 minutes into the last period.

The Airmen and the MPs traded shots and close calls a while before Wayne McLean hit the net for the Airmen again with 18 minutes gone in the last half. ASOS led 3-0.

The MPs refused to quit and threatened to score a few more times as the clock wound down. One attempt rolled all the way across the front of the ASOS goal but no MP was close enough to kick it in.

Brian Perales finally scored and saved the MPs from a goose egg in the last minute of play.

V-ball continued from page 11

ended, MEDDAC had suffered a 25-8 defeat.

Going into the second game of the match, MEDDAC stayed neck and neck with the Infantry powerhouse until the score evened out at 22-22.

It wasn't until then that the Infantry decided to get their heads into the game and prevent MEDDAC from scoring again, finally topping them 25-22 to win the title.



FAITH FURNITURE
3 x 8"
Black Only
3x8 Faith Furniture Ad

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2screenMachine

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Scrapbook/4-27, 4-28 & 4-30

COUNTRY MEADOW RESIDENCES
3 x 5"
Black Only
3x5, country meadows



NEWSPAPER SERVICES OF AMERICA
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
FullPage-CharterCommunication





CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - JUNCTION
6 x 21.25"
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FullPageArea-all4papers





Bull riders join Army recruiting team

Pro riders receive \$1M-plus in sponsorship

By Aimee Felix
Army News Service

FORT CARSON, Colo. - The general officer heading the Army Accessions Command announced April 17, a two-year partnership between the U.S. Army and America's professional bull riders.

The partnership allows the Army to field a three-member team in PBR events.

The partnership with PBR will assist the Army in its recruiting and awareness building efforts, said Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, commander of the Army Accessions Command, during a press conference at the Colorado Springs World Arena.

The parallels in character between bull riders and Soldiers make the Army and the PBR a natural fit, said Kandy Bernard, chief executive officer of PBR. "Like Soldiers, bull riders possess that will to win, pride in their work and no-quit attitude that are signs of a true champion."

Bull riders embody the tenets of the Warrior Ethos through their commitment to their mission, by never accepting defeat, never quitting and through the camaraderie among them, Cavin said while explaining why the partnership was ideal for the Army.

People who most often join the Army range from 17 to 24 years old, and the Army can best reach those potential Soldiers "through sports and world-class organizations that know how to start a mission and follow through," he said.

At the press conference, the three Army bull riders were briefly introduced to the media and given an opportunity to say how they felt about being a part of the Army team.

"The Army picked three solid guys," said Mike Lee, a 20-year-old Texan who joined the PBR at age 18. "I want a sponsor that will be loyal to me, and I know that's what the Army's all about," said Lee, who ranks third in the world in points.

Another Texan and Army team member, James White, is a favorite for the 2004 Rookie of the Year title. "I'm honored to be here, and I can promise I won't disappoint the Army," White said.

The Army's third bull rider, Jaron Nunnemaker, a 30-year-old competitor from Willits, Calif., said bull riders are a lot like Soldiers because "for us, it's a year-round thing, too; and we also put our lives on the line. We do it for our families and so do (Soldiers). In fact, they (Soldiers) do it for my family too."

The cowboys were officially introduced to the public later that evening at the opening ceremony of the Army Invitational at the World Arena.

Joining in the ceremony were 17 Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans, all of whom had received a Silver Star, Bronze Star or Purple Heart, and Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff of the U.S. Army.

The cowboys will be visiting several high schools as part of the recruiting effort, Cavin said.

The Army's Recruiting Command has reduced the money spent on television and print advertising and has focused its investments on the Internet, cable network exposure and sports. This has brought a 16 percent increase in recruitment, Cavin said.

What the Army will get in exposure from PBR is worth the investment of more than \$1 million, he said.

In 1995, three years after the creation of the PBR, the organization had just two sponsors shelling out a total of \$365,000 in sponsorships. Since then, sponsorship dollars have increased to \$17 million with 18 sponsors pitching in.

"These people wouldn't be signing on if they weren't getting their money's worth in exposure," Bernard said.



14th PAD/Tapp
Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, commander of U.S. Army Accessions Command, introduces the Army Bull Riding Team: James White (left), Mike Lee (center), and Jaron Nunnemaker during a press conference before the U.S. Army Invitational April 17.

GRARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
3 x 5.5"
Black Only
3x5.5, GCH DR KHOURY PENDARVIS

Army Chief of Staff Gen.

Peter

Schoomaker

chats with

Capt. Joel

Graham,

commander

of the Fort

Riley Com-

manding

General's

Mounted

Color

Guard.

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saddles.



104th PAD

Color guard represents Army at national bull riding event

By Cassidy Hill
Staff writer

Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard participated in the Army's first Professional Bull Riding sponsorship April 16-17. The national competition took place at the Colorado Springs World Arena in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Tom Tiernan, chief of the Outreach Division, Strategic Outreach Directorate, U.S. Army Accessions Command, said the Army's partnerships with the professional bull riders and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association are designed to promote the Army's recruiting message to millions of bull riding and rodeo fans.

"The cowboys and riders who compete in this sport demonstrate many of the same characteristics we look for in Soldiers. They are physically and mentally tough and possess a never-quit and refuse-to-accept-defeat attitude," Tiernan said.

"The Army's competitive cowboy program provides a new and extraordinary opportunity to deliver the Army's message to a large and diverse youth and influencer population in one of the fastest growing professional sports in the country," he said.

Tiernan said the Accessions Command invited Fort Riley's mounted color guard to launch the new program because it wanted the very best units to represent the Army.

"The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard is one of the best units of its type. It was a no-brainer for Accessions Command to seek the support of this

very fine unit," Tiernan said. "We are thrilled and delighted that the unit was available."

Capt. Joel Graham and his team enthusiastically embraced this mission.

Graham, the mounted color guard's commander, said this was the first professional bull rider competition the U.S. Army has sponsored.

The Army's chief of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, and Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, commander of the Accessions Command and deputy commanding general for initial entry training, spoke at the opening ceremonies.

On the opening night of the competition, the Fort Riley unit participated in an intermission performance that included its mule-drawn wagon and carrying the unit's guidon to the center of the arena.

Graham said recently redeployed Soldiers from Fort Carson were in the back of the wagon and helped the color guard's Soldiers throw Army recruiting T-shirts into the crowd.

On the second night of the competition, the unit posted the Colorado and Army flags during the opening ceremony.

The unit also participated in the intermission performance as they had done the night before. In addition to throwing T-shirts into the crowd, the unit participated in a hay bale competition.

Graham said a truck with side rails was driven to the center of the arena. A chalk line was drawn about 20 feet from the truck to designate the line where people had to stand to throw hay.

Two four-person teams were chosen at random from the crowd

to see who could throw the most hay into the truck the fastest.

"The winner of (the audience) team didn't get half of the hay into the truck, so I told the announcer that my boys could do better. The announcer said, 'Do I hear a challenge?' and as the crowd is on their feet screaming for us to compete, I quickly chose four Soldiers to get to the center of the arena," Graham said. "These guys threw every bale into this thing and the whole time I was running around coaching."

Spc. Adam Hawks, a member of the CGMCG, was one of the four Soldiers who competed in the hay contest. He said he was chosen at the last minute and came out to the center of the arena and started throwing hay.

"I was trying to throw as fast as I possibly could, just to make the other team look bad," Hawks said. "From the crowd's applause, we knew we did a good job."

The Soldiers threw about 50 bales of hay into the truck in under two minutes. All four Soldiers were awarded CDs for winning the competition. However, Hawks said they gave the CDs to the original winners.

Throughout the two-day competition, Graham said the unit also set up an 1870s period cavalry reenactment.

"Despite my Soldiers' nervousness, they did an excellent job. There will be no other high profile event with such distractions as loud music and pyrotechnics. All of the horses and Soldiers did a fantastic job under such circumstances, and this event will only help them prepare for more high profile events," Graham said.

USADISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"

RSD/April 2004





BRIGGS-
6 x 21.25"
Other Color
FULL COLOR-Fullpg Week 3





Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, April 30, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 17

Community news briefly

Conference to be simulcast

The Chaplain's Office and Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a simulcast of the Beth Moore Living Proof Live Conference from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 15, at Morris Hill Chapel.

Moore is an inspiring speaker and best-selling author who identifies with discouraged women because she, too, once felt defeated before the transforming power of God's Word changed her life.

Moore acknowledges she learned an important lesson that she now shares with other women: "I learned that living in victory only happens when you absolutely surrender to the total power of God and to His truth."

Moore has made it her mission to guide women everywhere into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with God.

BOSS events:

May 1 -- Worlds of Fun trip
May 5 -- BOSS meeting, 3:30 p.m. at Morale, Welfare and Recreation, building 253

Vacation Bible School slated

Wild West VBS Adventures can be found at Morris Hill Chapel June 8-11. Parents can send their elementary-age cowboys and cowgirls to learn about God's love each morning from 9 a.m. until high noon.

Registration dates are May 2-16. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration forms can be found at all chapel services, meetings and concerts.

To register by phone or e-mail, contact Althea Brown at 717-3032 or god4me@oz-online.net.

Post-wide yard sale scheduled

Post residents will be offering some great deals at the post-wide yard sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 1. Participating homes do not have to register for this sale. The sale is open to the general public. For more information, call 239-9435.

One scheduled sale is being planned by Cub Scout Pack 560 at 4904-I Watie Drive. All proceeds will be used to support pack activities.

The Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley Mayfest Membership Drive and Benefit will offer \$3 plate lunches from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 1, at the U.S. Cavalry Museum on Main Post for post yard sale shoppers needing a lunch break. A live radio remote broadcast and prize giveaways will be part of the lunchtime activities.

Legion plans buffet breakfast

Ogden American Legion Post 207 is planning a buffet breakfast from 7 a.m. to noon, May 1. Cost for adults is \$5 and for children 12 years old or younger is \$3.

For more information, call (785) 539-0121.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Foundation helps Soldiers call home

By Stephen Larson
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Many of the Soldiers in Iraq are young parents and won't see their spouses or children for a year or more. But Soldiers will soon be able to more easily send e-mail to or call their

loved ones at home due to the donation of millions of dollars of telecommunications equipment and services to the Army.

Freedom Calls Foundation has collected \$10 million worth of donations for equipment and services to provide free Internet, voice over Internet Protocol telephone and video teleconference

services for up to 10,000 troops. The Army officially accepted the donation April 6.

Ed Bukstel, operations director of Freedom Calls, said country music star Rodney Atkins pledged to help launch the Freedom Calls network with a live concert that will be video teleconferenced to Iraq from a military base.

"I can't imagine how happy the families of these Soldiers will be when this program is fully operational," Atkins said. "I think it's a wonderful use of this exciting communication technology."

The initiative started in August when Bukstel, executive vice president of SkyFrames Inc., a satellite telecommunications

company, of Costa Mesa, Calif., received an e-mail "out of the blue" from a sergeant in Iraq.

"She (the sergeant) wrote to me that communications available for Soldiers in her unit to contact home were very poor and that it would be helpful to troop morale

See Call home, Page 20

Double delivery



Post/Skidmore

Amy Schultz was moved into an operating room across the hall from her labor and delivery room in case there were any complications during the birth of her twins. There were no complications and the boys are at home now.

Hospital handles high-risk births

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info. Officer

Now that more than half of Fort Riley's Soldiers have returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Irwin Army Community Hospital can expect to see a bigger patient workload. In about nine months, many of those patients will be women delivering babies.

According to Dr. (Capt.) Renee Thai, an OB/GYN physician at the hospital, IACH delivers about 60 to 70 babies each month. Due to the deployment, the delivery rate temporarily dropped to about 40 for the months of January, February, and March 2004.

However, with the return of many of Fort Riley's Soldiers this past three months, the OB/GYN service is seeing a big leap in the number of new pregnant women. The "stork" will be very busy around the winter and spring of 2005.

"More than 90 percent of these pregnant women on Fort Riley are young, healthy and will have a normal pregnancy course," Thai said. "Less than 10 percent are considered high-risk."

According to Thai, when a high-risk pregnancy is identified, a battery of care providers are standing by, ready to provide care.

"A multi-specialty group consisting of OB/GYN, general surgery, orthopedics, ENT, dermatology, internal medicine, emergency medicine, radiology, pediatrics, family practice, anesthesiology, nutrition,

See Twins, Page 22



Amy and Dr. (Maj.) Anthony Schultz enjoy quiet moments with Peyton after his birth.

Post/Skidmore



Nurse Michele Omundson (left), Sgt. Bryon Gagnon (center) and Dr. (Maj.) Thomas Talbot check Weston over directly after his birth.

Post/Skidmore

Policy requires classes to ride

Motorcycle operators' courses free

Special to the Post

All individuals must complete a Department of Army-approved Motorcycle Defensive Driver Course prior to operating a moped or motorcycle on Fort Riley. Soldiers must complete such a course prior to operating a motorcycle or moped on- or off-post.

— Fort Riley
Commanding General
Policy Letter 04 02

Active duty soldiers and their family members, Department of the Army civilians, military retirees, U.S. Army Reserve, and U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers working on Fort Riley may now complete the required motorcycle defensive driver course on post.

Fort Riley offers the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Riders Course and its Experienced Riders Course at no cost to Fort Riley personnel.

Since March 1973, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation has set internationally recognized standards of excellence in motorcycle rider education training and operator licensing.

The Foundation's courses provide attendees the fundamentals

See Classes, Page 20

Hospital to honor nurses all week

Special to the Post

All across the United States, nurses are being saluted. Irwin Army Community Hospital joins the American Nurses Association in celebrating National Nurses Week May 6-12.

The association chose "Nurses: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Life" as this year's theme.

The purpose of National Nurses Week is to raise awareness of the value of nursing and to help educate the public about the role nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people.

Military personnel and civilian employees make up the nursing staff at IACH. Together they serve as a team dedicated to the hospital's mission of providing and managing the health care of soldiers, military families, and retirees, and to support the readiness and deployment of a med-

See Nurses, Page 20





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Community news briefly

The Shoppe sells pillows

The Shoppe is selling Fort Riley Tapestry Pillows. The pre-sale price is less expensive but quantities are dwindling. Anyone wishing to purchase this one-of-a-kind item should contact The Shoppe in its new location in the U.S. Cavalry Museum, building 205, by calling 239-2743.

The Shoppe receives new gift items weekly for its stock of handcrafted items, unique farewell gifts, pottery, deployment candles, military items, and much more.

The Shoppe's hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday.

Masons' host special dance

To welcome troops home, the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Kansas, will host the Grand Ways and Means Black and White Ball from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., May 1-2 at the American Legion Post, 201 E. Fourth St., in Junction City.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling Bob Laster Sr. at 762-5505.

Kindergarten roundup set

Fort Riley Elementary School will conduct its annual kindergarten roundup from 5:30 to 6 p.m., May 5, in the school library.

Parents of new kindergarten students can learn about the scheduled of upcoming kindergarten classes, health requirements for enrollment, the class curriculum, what supplies will be needed, and enrollment dates.

For more information, call the school at 784-5529.

SFSC events:

May 5 -- PCS Briefing-South Korea, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

May 5 -- FRG Leaders Networking Meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 5 -- Army Family Team Building-Level III, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 7 -- Army Family Team Building-Level I, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Post/Heronemus

Matthew Lizzi (left) and Rachel Canuela fish in comfort under a leanto their party erected to shed the continual rain that soaked the annual Earth Day Fishing Clinic April 24 at Moon Lake. Lizzi's father helps set up the pole his sister, Rhiannon, was using.



Post/Heronemus

Thomas Dotray shows off two large catfish he caught using liver as bait early in the half-day fishing clinic.

Wet anglers wet lines on Earth Day

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Rain failed to dampen spirits April 24, as 171 children age 15 and younger wet their lines in Moon Lake on post in hopes of catching a big catfish.

"We had over 120 kids pre-register. Lots of them didn't show up, but a lot of others did," said Daria Griffith, who was working the registration desk that morning.

The Directorate of Environment and Safety stocked the lake with about 750 catfish for the annual Earth Day Fishing Clinic. It provided some fishing poles and bait for young anglers without any, but many showed up with their own gear and bait.

DES provided worms and "stink bait," said Karen Richardson, a writer-editor at DES who helped coordinate the program. Other successful bait included liver and corn, she said.

"Lots of fish were caught," Richardson said. One family of three children caught their limit of five fish each, she said.

Area sponsors helped DES provide prizes for the children participating. Each child received a new pole, a tackle box, fishing lures or camping gear when their name was drawn, Richardson said.

The fishing started at 8 a.m. By 9:30 a.m., 8-year-old Cameron Marris hadn't caught anything. He sat patiently on the bank in the drizzling rain waiting for a nibble but said he wasn't sure what he

would catch.

A short distance away, where the lake curved around the bank, Thomas Dotray showed off the two large catfish he'd caught in the previous hour. Dotray's secret to success that morning was using liver as bait.

Dotray claimed to be an old hand at fishing. He boasted of "a lot" of experience fishing at Milford Lake.

A little farther around the bank, 5-year-old Michael Lenz stood in front of his mother turning the handle on his fishing reel. It was his first experience fishing, his mother, Angelia, said.

So far Michael had only gotten a couple of nibbles at his bait and his attention was riveted more on the reel he played with than on the bobber floating on the lake's surface.

Beneath a lean-to made of sticks and a blue plastic tarp, Matthew Lizzi and Rachel Canuela held their poles and watched as a snake swam toward them, then veered away into deeper water.

The Lizzis arrived at Fort Riley recently after being stationed at Fort Gordon, Ga., where they fished mostly for blue gills. With their assignment to Fort Riley, the family was looking forward to better fishing, the Matthew's mother said.

Fishing wasn't the only thing going on during Fort Riley's annual Earth Day event. One canvas shelter sported an electronic fishing machine that Steve Wahle said measured how well a person could "fight a walleye" simulated

at the end of a fishing rod and line.

Anglers watched a monitor that showed a video of a walleye taking the bait then trying to keep from being reeled close enough to the angler's boat to be netted.

Lights on an electronic monitor indicated whether the angler was causing too much or too little tension on the line while reeling in the fish. The score showed how well the angler did.

"Not too many people score high," Wahle said, including himself among them.

Another shelter contained information about recycling and pelts of a variety of wildlife found on Fort Riley and other displays.

Outside, in the rain, DES set up a display of farm equipment it uses to manage the natural resources on Fort Riley.

Herb Abel, director of environment and safety, pointed out one tractor with a clipper that operates hydraulically "like a big scissors." DES uses it to cut down small trees that invade the grasslands and destroy the habitat of wildlife, such as the greater prairie chicken, which thrives in the tall grass prairie at Fort Riley, Abel said.

DES uses other farm equipment to manage its small food plots, which are basically small farm crop fields, Abel said. Milo, corn, wheat and alfalfa grow in the plots. DES uses the crops mostly to feed the wildlife on post, Abel said.

"We feed everything from sparrows to quail, wild turkeys and elk," he said.

Recyclable materials

Plastic bottles and jars of all colors and sizes, including beverage bottles, condiment bottles, milk jugs, laundry detergent containers and shampoo bottles

Glass bottles and jars that are clear, green or amber in color

Aluminum cans, steel food cans

Newspaper; white paper, not including yellow sticky tabs and envelopes with plastic see-through windows

Magazines and catalogs
Corrugated cardboard, excluding paperboard commonly used for packaging crackers, cereal products and beverage cartons

Fort Riley residents should place the items in blue recycling bags available from self-help in building 289 on Main Post and place bags near curbs for collection. Bags should not weigh more than 40 pounds each.



Post/Heronemus

Angelia Lenz helps her son, 5-year-old Michael, reel in his line after getting a nibble during the annual fishing clinic.



AAFES takes top award for Popeye's

Special to the Post

DALLAS — Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits formally recognized the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's efforts to bring a taste of home to American troops around the world at its international franchise March conference in New Orleans, the birthplace of Popeye's.

AAFES received two awards at the conference: the "International Franchisee of the Year" Award and a "Silver Plate" Award for AAFES' Popeye's at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

The "Franchisee of the Year" is the highest recognition presented

by Popeye's to franchisees. This is the first year AAFES has been recognized for this accomplishment. It covers system wide operational excellence, strategic and responsible growth, customer service and passion for the brand.

"AAFES is thrilled to be recognized with the distinguished 'Franchisee of the Year' award. It is a very important and meaningful accomplishment," said AAFES Vice President of Food and Theater Richard Sheff. "Bringing this award home would not have been possible without the loyalty of our customers and the commitment of AAFES' associates."

AAFES' Popeye's restaurant at building 667 at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii received Popeye's Silver Plate Award for operational excellence.

Each year Popeye's management honors four domestic restaurants with the Silver Plate Award. The award recognizes restaurants that display overall operations excellence, positive restaurant image and effective usage of Popeye's training tools.

AAFES is aggressively engaged in delivering name brand fast food to Soldiers and Airmen throughout the world. "Regardless of their location, AAFES is committed to bringing name

brand fast food services to America's troops," Sheff said. "As the recognition from Popeye's demonstrates, no one is delivering a taste of home to locations around the globe better than AAFES."

AAFES began working with Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits when it opened a store at Fort Stewart, Ga., in 1985. Since then, AAFES has opened 49 more restaurants worldwide—18 in the United States, 18 in Europe and 14 in the Pacific.

AAFES plans to open three more Popeye's Chicken & Biscuit locations in the United States in 2004.

Classes continued from page 17

of safe, responsible motorcycling skills that can reduce the risk of death or injury to those who operate motorcycles.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation emphasizes five main messages to motorcyclists: attend training, obtain a license, always wear protective gear, always ride sober, and ride within the limitations of your skill level.

The Basic Rider Course includes instruction on the proper techniques for safe operation of the motorcycle as well as a driver skill qualification course and written tests.

Attendees are responsible for providing their own protective equipment except their helmet, which instructors will provide for students who don't have one. Instructors will also provide a motorcycle during the course for

attendees who don't have one.

The Experienced Rider Course includes advanced level instruction on the proper techniques for safe operation of the motorcycle as well as a driver skill qualification course and written tests.

Those who attend this course are responsible for providing their own motorcycle, helmet, and protective equipment.

Both courses are completed during a two-day period.

More information on these courses and other safety courses provided by the post's Safety Division, visit the Fort Riley Internet home page at www.riley.army.mil and click on Command Safety.

Information also is available by calling the Directorate of Environment and Safety at 239-2334 or 239-0446.

Call home continued from page 17

if they could get Internet access and e-mail so they could stay in touch with loved ones," Bukstel said. "She asked if I had any ideas that might help."

SkyFrames issued a press release to ask for donations to help out this unit in Iraq. John Harlow, a Wall Street lawyer, read the release, contacted Bukstel, and together they established the Freedom Calls Foundation, a non-profit entity incorporated in the state of New York and registered with the Charities Bureau of the state of New York Department of Law.

Among the larger donors, Bukstel said, Hewlett-Packard donated 1,000 laptop computers, 100 printers and scanners.

Logitech donated 500 Web cameras and microphones.

Loral Space & Communications donated Very-Small Aperture Terminal satellite dishes, hub connections and a full-year subscription of free bandwidth.

Motorola donated a wireless broadband platform that will allow troops in a 15-mile radius to tie into the network.

FedEx donated about \$300,000 of cargo space to get the gear to Iraq.

Bukstel said that an American engineer is working with an Iraqi telecom company to provide installation and maintenance services.

Among those helping Freedom Calls navigate through Army channels for approval of the donations have been Lt. Col. Michael Kwak, the Army's product manager, Defense Wide Transmission Systems; his successor, Lt. Col. Earl Noble; and Janice Starck, a project leader for PM DWTS.

Some of the issues to be ironed out, Starck said, have been who will be responsible for the donated equipment when it's in Iraq, and what will happen to it after the troops come home.

Starck said the equipment will

be signed for by local Morale, Welfare and Recreation personnel in Iraq and at the completion of the mission, PM DWTS will be responsible for determining disposition.

"The equipment will either be transferred to other MWR activities, placed on long-term storage or disposed of, if the equipment is obsolete at that point," Starck said.

But in the end, the waiting was worth it. Just ask a Soldier.

"Calling home is the biggest morale booster there is," said Spec. Johanna Adams, a personnel specialist with the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

PM DWTS got a taste of how sweet it can be to help Soldiers in Iraq stay in touch with loved ones on June 6, 2003.

Parents deployed to Iraq got to watch their children graduate from Vicenza High School, a Department of Defense school in Vicenza, Italy.

After the ceremony, students and parents spoke to each other through the VTC link. The VTC link offered an opportunity for personal face-to-face congratulations and tearful reunions.

A commander in Iraq wrote that the VTC "had to be the biggest morale booster I've witnessed in 25 years of military service. The VTC brought a once-in-a-lifetime event to the battlefield of Iraq."

"The joy I witnessed on both ends of the video monitor will be in war stories for many generations to come," he said.

Bukstel said that he plans to go to Iraq after the first installation is operational.

"It's going to bring tears to my eyes when this happens," he said.

"One guy told me when he was in Vietnam he didn't talk to his family for over a year. Well that was years ago. Now we have technology, so that doesn't have to happen," Bukstel said.

Nurses continued from page 17

ically protected force.

The hospital deployed a number of military nursing personnel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and therefore has been augmented by activated Army Reserve Soldiers serving in a variety of hospital settings, including the emergency room, intensive care unit operating room and case management.

Many volunteers faithfully serve at IACH, assisting the nursing staff in fulfilling the mission and enhancing customer service.

In honor of the dedication, commitment, and tireless effort of the nearly 2.7 million registered nurses nationwide to promote and maintain the health of this nation, IACH plans a week of activities that will include a fun run/walk at Riley's Convention Center at 8 a.m. May 8 and a cake and punch ceremony at 3 p.m. May 11 in the hospital dining facility.

Other events include promotions of the observance and leaders dispensing refreshments and spending time with nurses.

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Post/Skidmore
Dr. (Maj.) Anthony Schultz admires his son, Weston, for the first time.

Twins

continued from page 17

social work, pathology, allergy and immunology, optometry, ophthalmology, dentistry and oral surgery, occupational and physical therapy, brace shop and mental health have the ability to care for and deliver more than 99 percent of our pregnant beneficiaries, both normal and high-risk," Thai said.

Though the list of medical conditions that make pregnancy high-risk is long, Thai said some of the conditions are pre-existing or chronic and some develop during the pregnancy. "It is impossible to list all these conditions, even in an obstetrical textbook," Thai said.

However, there are fewer than a handful of chronic medical conditions that are commonly seen in woman entering into pregnancy. Thai listed them as: Pre-existing high blood pressure, diabetes, epileptic seizures, poorly controlled thyroid disorders, connective tissue disorders (i.e. Lupus), solicited drug use, severe anemia and asthma that is poorly controlled.

"Women with history of in-utero death after 20 weeks, pre-term delivery of less than 37 weeks of gestational age, kidney infections, and pregnancy-related high blood pressure are also considered high-risk, as these conditions may occur again during the current pregnancy," Thai said. "Obviously, any form of multiple gestations (e.g., twins or triplets) is automatically considered high-risk."

Thai said IACH has always taken care of women delivering twins, and this month seems to be a big month for them.

"This is an exciting month for IACH," said Thai, who explained

that three sets of twins are due before the end of the month.

"The first set of twins, both boys, were delivered on April 23 at around 7 p.m.," Thai said. "Both twins and mother are doing well and are already home."

Thai said a second set of twins was delivered April 26 — again, both boys — to a proud father who had recently returned from Iraq.

"The third set of twins is scheduled to deliver on April 30," Thai said. "They will be the first twins to be delivered on the newly renovated fifth floor Labor and Delivery."

Thai said the twins delivered April 23 belonged to IACH's emergency room doctor Maj. A. Schultz and his wife, Amy. Amy was diagnosed with twin pregnancy in October 2003.

"Multiple gestations are considered high-risk pregnancies," Thai said. "They are at risk for growth problems, birth defects, pre-term delivery, development of high blood pressure related to pregnancy, malnutrition of the mother, pregnancy induced diabetes, mother having breathing problems later on in pregnancy due to the babies pushing on the diaphragm, as well as other problems."

According to Thai, Amy was cared for by a team of certified nurse midwives and obstetricians. She was seen much more frequently than women with normal pregnancies to ensure that if problems developed during the pregnancy, they would be discovered and addressed promptly. "There were multiple ultrasounds done to assess for birth defects and growth throughout the pregnan-

cies," Thai said.

According to Thai, Amy was put on extra vitamins, iron, calcium and folic acid from the time of diagnosis to the time of delivery.

"This is because the two babies need more vitamins and minerals than what any reasonable woman can get from her regular diet," Thai said.

By 36 weeks, Amy had developed complications of pregnancy associated with twins and was brought in for induction of labor.

"Delivering twins takes a lot of coordination from the various disciplines," Thai said. "For Mrs. Schultz, both of her babies were head down. Therefore, she was a candidate to try vaginal birth. The delivery was planned in the operating room. This is because during a twin delivery, a vacuum, forceps, an emergency C-section, or breech extraction may be necessary," she said.

Thai said after about eight hours of labor, Amy delivered two boys. They were born about an hour apart.

The first baby boy, Weston Michael Schultz, weighed in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces, followed by his little brother, Peyton Robert Schultz, weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

Schultz said he and Amy chose to have their children at IACH because he knew the hospital could handle the high-risk pregnancy.

"Being at Fort Riley nearly four years has given me a good sense of what ... our hospital and its staff can handle ..." Schultz said.

"I trust the doctors at Fort Riley not only for myself but for my family," Schultz said.

Community news briefly

School plans annual carnival

Fort Riley Elementary School will host its annual P.T.A. Carnival beginning at 4 p.m., May 8. This is a fun event for young and old in addition to being a fundraiser for the school.

The carnival will feature entertainment, fire department and military displays, hands-on activities, games and lots of food.

Prices for all activities run from 20 cents per game to about 75 cents for food items. All funds raised during the event will be redistributed throughout the school. Every dollar will be used to enhance the students' education.

Crafts center sets classes

May 2 -- Scrapbooking Get-Together, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

May 3 -- Wood Safety, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 3 -- Crochet, Knitting, Cross Stitch, 7 p.m.

May 3, 4, 10, 17, 18 -- Beginning Stained Glass, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 4, 11, 18, 25 -- Wood Class Project-Quilt Rack, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

May 4 -- Mold Pouring Orientation, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Friday, April 30, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 25

Leisuretime ideas

In Emporia:

Car show — Show open to all classes of vehicles in shaded park; May 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; South Commercial Street at the Cottonwood River, Soden's Grove Park. For more information, call (620) 342-0944.

In Council Grove:

Cutting Horse Contest — Competition involving national professional and novice cutting horse riders and their professionally trained horses; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 15 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 16; East Highway 56, Fairgrounds Arena. For more information, call (620) 767-5882 or 1-800-732-9211 or visit www.councilgrove.com on the Internet.

In Abilene:

Team Roping — Men's ranch rodeo top-team roping event; May 16, 11 a.m. into the evening, Wild Bill Hickok Arena, Central Kansas Fairgrounds. For more information, call (785) 388-2650.

In Abbeville:

Frontier Days Rodeo and BBQ — Rodeo, games, team penning, tractor pull; starts 9 a.m. May 14, 7:30 p.m. May 15; Main Street. For more information, call (620) 286-5398.

In Argonia:

Argonia Daze Celebration & Rodeo — Family festival with parade down Main Street and dinner in the park, various sports tournaments, fun run, rodeo both nights; May 14-15; Salter and River Parks. For more information, call (620) 435-6417 or visit www.argonikansas.com on the Internet.

In Merriam:

Turkey Creek Festival — All-day festivities include a parade, arts and crafts, pancake feed, concessions, paddle boats, concerts, petting zoo, train ride, moonwalk, "Teen Zone" with remote control cars and live Teen Band; May 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 6501 Antioch Park. For more information, call (913) 722-7750 or visit www.exploremerriam.org on the Internet.

In Newton:

Kansas Sampler Festival — Festival focusing on Kansas communities, entertainers, food, living history and Kansas manufactured products; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 2, First and Grandview, Athletic Park. For more information, call (316) 283-2560 or (800) 899-0455 or visit www.kansas-samplerfestival.com on the Internet.

In Lindsborg:

Millfest — A family event celebrating the history of the

museum and the pioneer heritage of the region. Enjoy tours of the 1898 flour mill in operation, pioneer arts and crafts demonstrations, lively traditional music, and great food, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 and from noon to 5 p.m. May 2, 120 Mill St., McPherson County Old Mill Museum. For more information, call (785) 227-3595 or visit www.oldmillmuseum.org on the Internet.

In Kansas City, Kan.:

Cinco de Mayo Festival — Non-stop entertainment, booths, carnival and food, from 5 to 10 p.m. April 30, from noon to 10 p.m. May 1 and from noon to 8 p.m. May 2, 42nd and Mission, Rosedale Park. For more information, call (913) 268-6691.

In White Cloud:

Flea Market — 400 spaces of quality antiques and one-of-a-kind finds, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 2, Main Street. For more information, call (785) 595-3320.

In Hutchinson:

IMAX: NASCAR — Groundbreaking IMAX film "NASCAR: The IMAX Experience" thrusts moviegoers and NASCAR fans into the driver's seat to experience the heart-pounding thrills of stock cars racing at breakneck speeds up to 200 miles per hour, through May 27, hours vary by day, 1100 N. Plum St., Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center. For more information, call (620) 662-2305 or visit www.cosmo.org on the Internet.

At the movies:

April 30 — Dawn of the Dead (R)
May 1 — Taking Lives (R)
May 2 — Never Die Alone (R)
May 6 — Dawn of the Dead (R)
May 7 — The Passion of the Christ (R)
May 8 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG)
May 9 — The Passion of the Christ (R)
May 13 — Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R)
May 14 — The Ladykillers (R)
May 15 — The Prince and Me (PG)
May 16 — Jersey Girl (PG-13)
May 20 — The Ladykillers (R)
May 21 — The Alamo (PG-13)
May 22 — Home on the Range (PG)
May 23 — The Whole Ten Yards (PG-13)
May 27 — The Alamo (PG-13)
May 28 — Hellboy (PG-13)
May 29 — Walking Tall (PG-13)
May 30 — Hellboy (PG-13)
June 3 — The Girl Next Door (R)

Bittersweet 'Raisin'



Master Sgt. Donald McCormick of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) plays the role of a frustrated husband and father living in Chicago in the 1950s while his stage wife, played by Montika Allen-Atkinson listens. The two are part of an almost all black cast performing "Raisin in the Sun" at the Junction City Little Theatre April 30 through May 2.

Post/Heronemus

Black cast set for performance

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Emotions poured from the Junction City Little Theatre stage from clinched fists, shouts, frowns and speechless grimaces of frustration April 27.

Just two more nights to get everything right, but to the casual observer that night, not much else needed to be honed.

The dialog snapped sharply, gestures enlarged the emotions the actors expressed and even an infrequent lapse remembering lines shuffled backstage, out of the mind of anyone in the audience.

A cast featuring 10 black actresses and actors opened "Raisin in the Sun" this week and will perform again April 30 and May 1 at 8 p.m. and for a 2 p.m. Matinee May 2. The show is worth the ticket price.

Two members of the cast are

active duty Soldiers at Fort Riley. "Raisin in the Sun" will be their first appearance on the Junction City Little Theatre stage.

Master Sgt. Donald McCormick, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), plays Walter, the male lead. He may be new to the local little theater scene but he brings some stage experience with him. McCormick said he performed in "The Wiz" and "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" while stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., a few years ago.

The music director at Junction City High School approached McCormick about being in the play, McCormick read for the part of the struggling husband and father living with his family in Chicago of the 1950s and got it.

Mixing rehearsals and military duties has sometimes caused problems, McCormick said. He spent several days away recently on two temporary duty trips. "I

If you go

What: "Raisin in the Sun"

When: 8 p.m., April 30 and May 1; 2 p.m., May 2

Where: Junction City Little Theatre, 18th Street, near Buffalo Soldier monument

Tickets: Adults \$8 each, children \$3 each, available at the door

kind of kept in touch," he said. "I've got the movie on video and CD and I've got the book," he said. Watching the movie and reading the book helped him develop his character's persona, he said.

First Lt. Todd Skinner steps on stage with no previous experience but saw the play as an opportu-

ty to try something new and to spend more time with his girlfriend, who has a major part in the production.

Skinner said he likes the play because it has a good message, "and it's fun. It's different."

"He said, 'It gives people a different perspective about life in a different era and a different place.'"

He views the play in a positive light and said he hopes the community will receive it well.

McCormick agreed that the play could be important to the local community.

"The play can tie the community together," he said. "It brings back to mind where we were and where we are now ... and that we don't want to go back," he said.

The good point about the play, McCormick said, is that prejudice comes from not talking to neighbors and getting to know them, and that's something people still need to do today.



Post/Heronemus

Master Sgt. Donald McCormick tries to soothe his stage wife, played by Montika Allen-Atkinson, during an early morning scene in "Raisin in the Sun."



Post/Heronemus

Mama Younger, played by Patricia Dozier, slaps her daughter, played by Sakinda Walker, during rehearsal for "Raisin in the Sun" April 27.

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